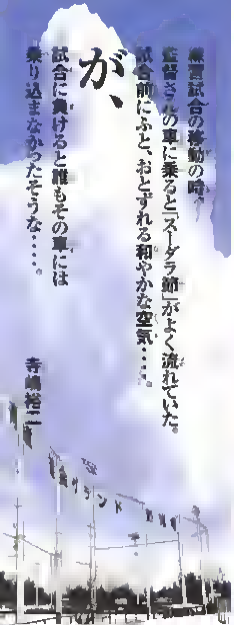


絶賛好評発売中

KC 寺嶋裕二作品

■GIANT STEP 全4巻

■ダイヤのA 1～

以下続刊

7
寺嶋裕二
ダイヤのA
エース

主な登場人物

沢村 栄純

長野の弱小チーム出身。熱くて涙もろい。気持ちで戦う投手。出所の見えないクセ球が持ち味。一年生。

降谷 暁

剛速球が武器の投手。打撃力も怪物クラス　沢村鳥大のライバル。一年生。

小湊 春市

攻守ともにセンスが光る有望[illegible]
三年の小湊亮介は兄。
一年生。セカンド

御幸 一也

青道高の要。投手の才能を引き出すことに長けている。新聞に取り上げられる、位置の監督が期待する次代の有力選手。二年生。

丹波

変化球が持ち味の投手。不調に悩むが、新人の入部が刺激となり復活の兆しが?

倉持 洋一

沢村と同室。沢村をイジメるのが好き。二年生。ショート。

増子 透

パワー系スラッガー。沢村との対決では、高校野球の厳しさを教える。沢村と同室。三年生。サード。

滝川・クリス・優

才能あふれる捕手だったが故障のため現在二軍。沢村とバッテリーを組む。野球知識が豊富で、的確に沢村を指導。三年生。

伊佐敷 純

強肩強打、すべてがフルスイング。口調が荒く後輩に恐れられる。三年生。センター

結城哲也

青道高校野球部主将。プレーでチームを引っ張るタイプ。三年生。ファースト。

片岡 鉄心

プロ入りよりも高校である青道の監督を選んだ男。指導の厳しい先生。

第49話／試　験・・・5
第50話／クリス直伝・・・25
第51話／ひょうひょうと・・・45
第52話／ムカツクけど……・67
第53話／反省会・・・87
第54話／因　縁・・・107
第55話／目　撃・・・129
第56話／評判以上・・・149
第57話／歯　車・・・169

●週刊少年マガジン2007年第24号〜第32号

この物語はフィクションであり、
実在の人物・団体・出来事などとは、
一切関係ありません。

. ... Huh ?
Rei-chan, can you let me catch for this guy?

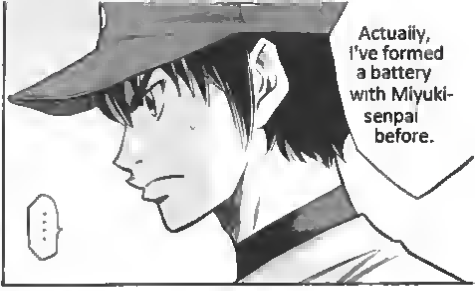
Have so much confidence!
This guy ... How could he ...

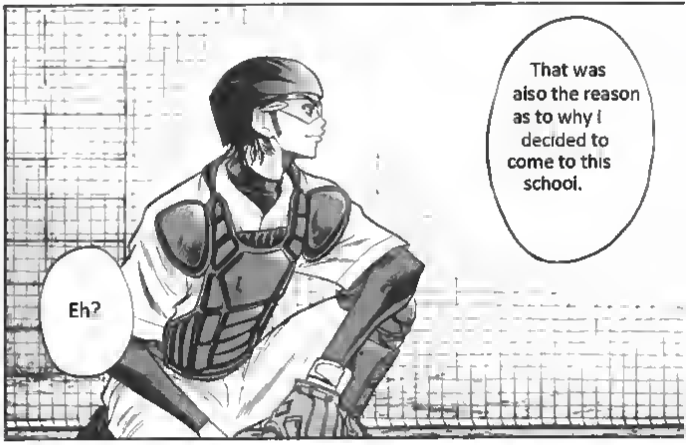
Chapter 49 Test
第49話／試験

That was my first impression of him.

If this goes on, there totelly won't be any chence to go into the field! Hahahahaha!
Moreover, all of them ere high balls
As expected, your pitches ara still really herd to catch...
If you don't move the relaase point of the ball forward, your ball won't be able to drop!
After using the new pitching postura, your hend comes out slowar.
Eh ?
You cen just try imegining yourself smeshing the ball against the ground, and pitch!
Amazing
To so easily catch Eiji-kun's pitches...

Oh... With you, Eijun?

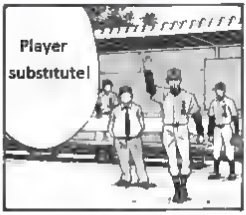

Actually, I've formed a battery with Miyuki-senpai before.
...

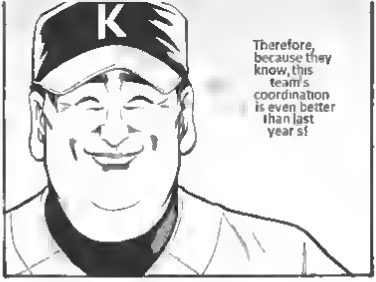

That was also the reason as to why I decided to come to this school.
Eh?

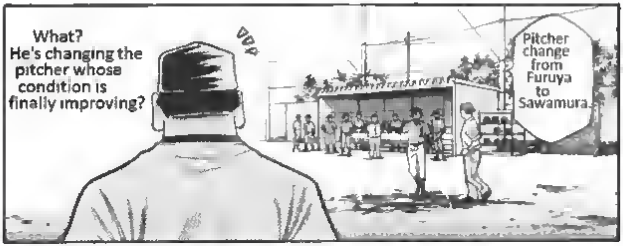
That I'm here right now
That's right It was because of the fact that I met Miyuki-senpai,

Great!
That felt like a nice one!
Eck!
Hey..
Wait

There's only 1 run scored this inning too
Aah~ It's a double play!
Daaaaaaa~
But their defense is really hard to break through
Hmm... We wanted to strike them down in one go.
Not bad....
Good job!
Nice pitching!
Nice pitching!
But regarding this matter, they are the ones who knows it the best.
Even though this year's team is not the team from last year with an outstanding performance at Koushien


Player substitute!


Therefore, because they know, this team's coordination is even better than last year s!


What? He's changing the pitcher whose condition is finally improving?
Pitcher change from Furuya to Sawamura.

You must also do your role of fielding properly!
We'll also be using this type of player substitution in the summer's league tournament

Eh?
Furuya... You'll be playing as the left fielder.

The left field ...

As expected, Coach has already taken Furuya's power into consideration for the summer tournament.
Although Furuya's stamina is low, but together with Miyuki's catching they are a pair of valuable assets for the team
...
Yes. Yes!!
Sawamura, you'll just.
Don't say it!
Nothing's really expected out of you huh?
Haha If he really expected nothing from your pitching, he wouldn't have placed your name on the list of reserves!
That's it?!
Well, you just have to pitch properly

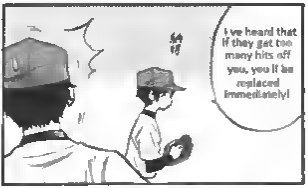
You have your own unique ebilities!
Just believe in yourself, and pitchi
TOKYO
Well then... it's sterting!
S
ぐっ

6回表 沢村登板

6th inning
Sawamura takes the plate

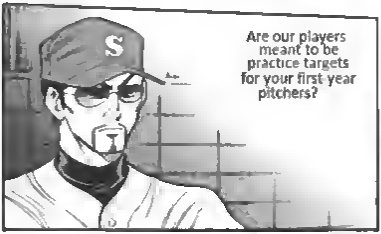
Hehe
Don't you get the jitters now!
しゃす!
I'll be letting them hit like crazy,
So please take .. Take care of the rest!
Sawamura, calm down!

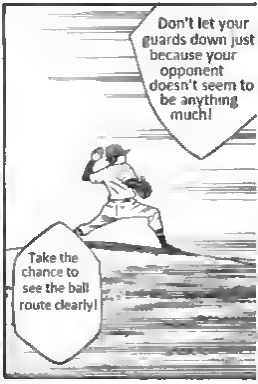
Aah~ Even I'm starting to get nervous.


I've heard that if they get too many hits off you, you'll be replaced immediately!

Ganbatte, Eiji kun!

*a left handed pitcher



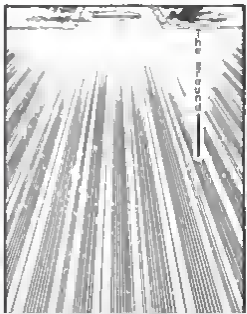

Don't let your guards down just because your opponent doesn't seem to be anything much!
Take the chance to see the ball route clearly!

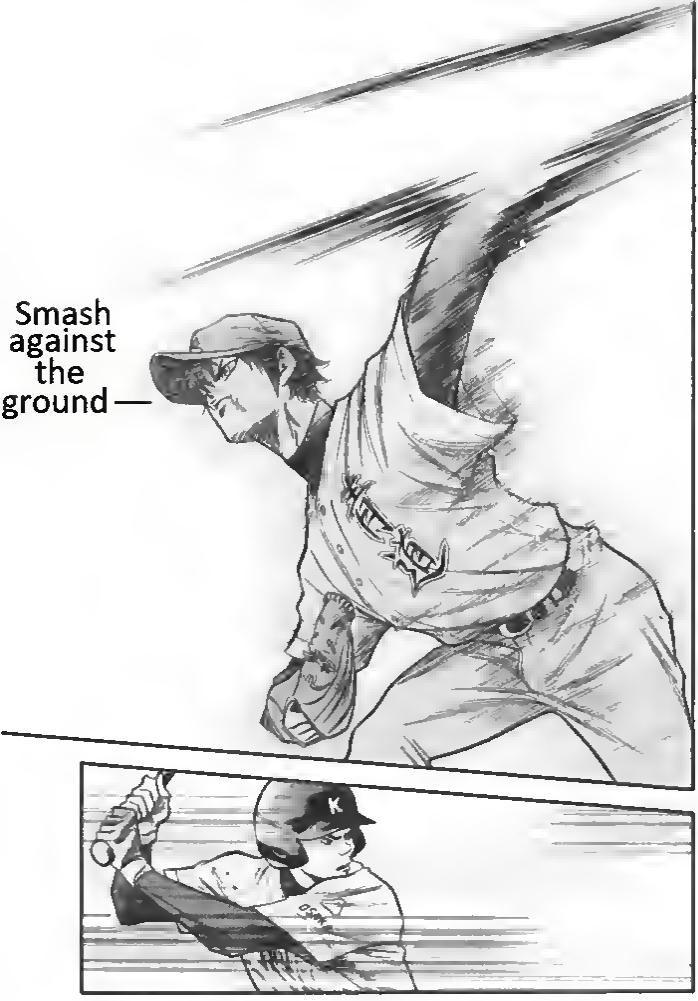
Play!
Whatever pitch you throw, I'll be hitting from the start!

COME!

ギュウ
ウ

ﾊﾋﾞ


the ground!


Smash against the ground —

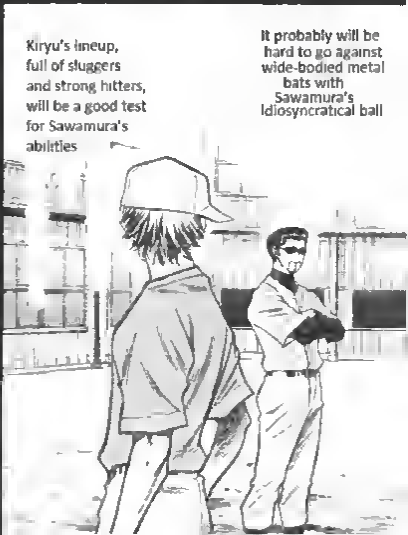
USA

Nice pitch!
To not hit the ball that was in such a good spot, what are you doing? (angry)
HSIOUP
The release point of the ball can't be seen at all!
What. What the hell is this pitching form!

For tomorrow's game, you'll be doing the game calling for Sawamura!
Miyuki ..

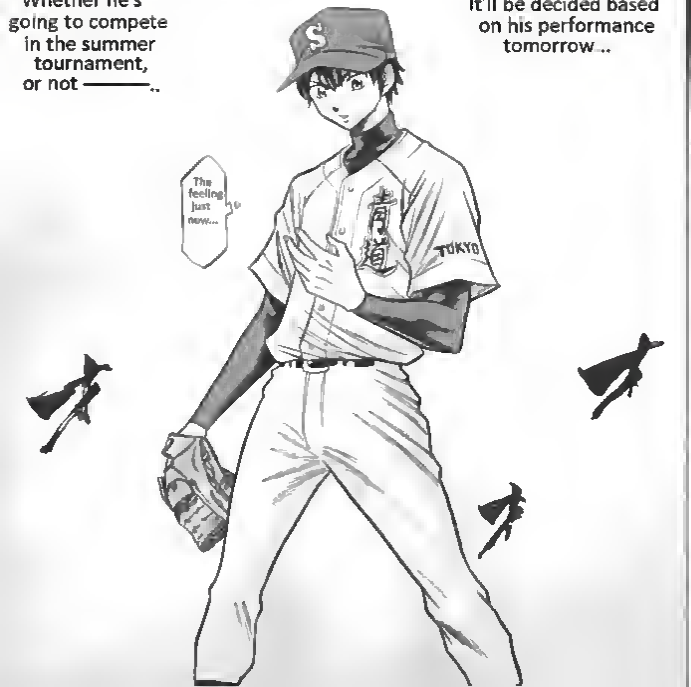
Just let Sawamura pitch a ball the opponent would swing at!
It s okay even if the opponents bite on to a ball with good placement

That's... Even harder than normal...
H a h a

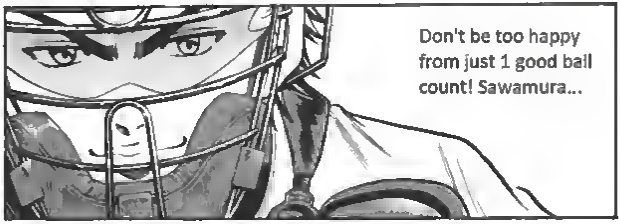

Kiryu's lineup, full of sluggers and strong hitters, will be a good test for Sawamura's abilities
It probably will be hard to go against wide-bodied metal bats with Sawamura's idiosyncratical ball

Whether he's going to compete in the summer tournament, or not ———..

It'll be decided based on his performance tomorrow...



It's the same as before ...
Haha ...


Don't be too happy from just 1 good ball count! Sawamura...

Last test to decide whether you'll make it into the varsity team
Because this will be your...

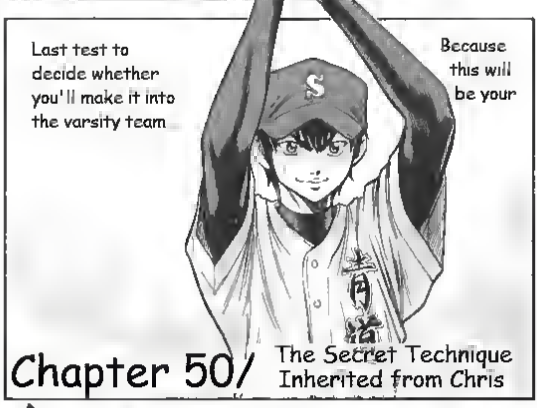
From the Translator

Hello everyone!

I'm just someone wha knows how to read English and Mandarin, but have null knowledge of kanji and hiragana, so this is actually a Mandarin-to-English translatian. Added ta the fact that this is my very first attempt at translating, and that English is *not* my forte (I think you'll already have noticed from the many errors I've made throughout this ><), please forgive any grammar/vocab errors and/ar any misinterpretatian af scenes I've made. All I did was actually just erasing the ariginal text and typing the English translation over it, so you may see random patches of white in some places. Many thanks to the persan who had the RAWs, (but idk who you are) since I found it on the net and it wasn't me who scanned them ...

-Littlejay

Sawamura
Don't be too happy from just 1 good ball count!


Last test to decide whether you'll make it into the varsity team
Because this will be your
Chapter 50/
The Secret Technique Inherited from Chris

Smash against the ground!
The ground——

Great! With this, it's 1 out!
Did I swing too late again?
D a m n
Eh ?!
ドッ

I thought there would be 1 out with that...
No prob !
Great! A singles hit in front of the right fielder!
Maintain the momentum, Murata!
A ball that is in a good spot will be swept out with brute force..
The pitch is too high
He's stronger than what we expected ...
Be careful, Murata

Ahhh
S

This is a good opportunity for you to try them out!
Didn't Chris-senpai teach you many things?

If a chance is seen, stealing of bases will be allowed.
Even if you're a lefty you're after all... a first-year

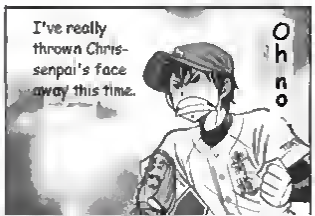
Yeah. He'll probably steal a base...
That runner's baserunning speed is good

Now's the chance!
He lifted his foot!

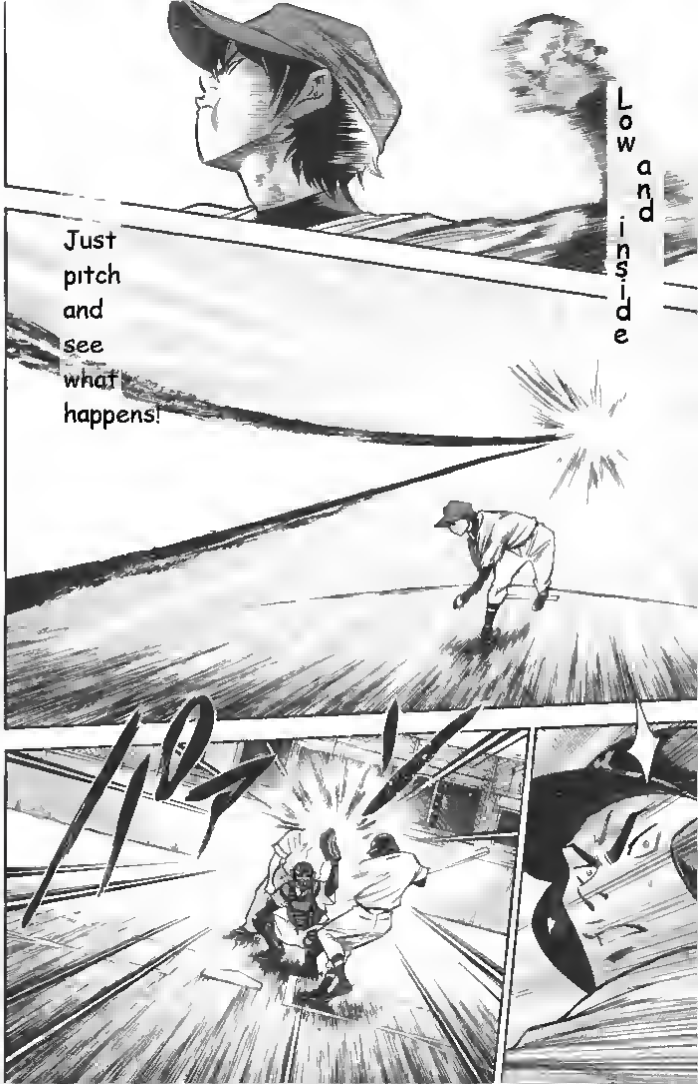
Eh !?
てぃっ!
Muahahaha~! You fell for it!
That was the pickoff move that Chris-senpai personally taught me!
How was it~~!!!

Balk: To make an illegal motion before pitching

*T/N: I'm not too sure of this. The mandarin scans were "我有确实地保持静止了啊"



He really doesn't disappoint people's expectations
Ha ha ha ha
Sawamura!
Ah... I know.
Sorry... He's really a guy who learns slowly
Don't mind!
Let's focus on the batter!
That's because a ball can be swept out with brute strength if the ball is at a good spot
Another ball on the inside corner?!


Low and inside
Just pitch and see what happens!

The release point of the ball can't be seen at all!
What?! This guy's pitching
OSAKA
Oh no...
I pitched too high...
Try pitching to this spot!
He's planning to call for balls on the inside corner the whole match...
Miyuki

For Sawamura, whose control is still not stable, pitching to the inside corner will undoubtedly bring him even more pressure
For a pitcher a tremendous amount of courage is needed to pitch to the inside corner
Short-stop..
It's still too easy to hit!
The... feeling I get from that hit makes me feel really strange...

Uwaa ~~~
It's really hard to catch at such a spot!
It's too hard to catch the ball when it was hit to such a difficult spot.
Ah~~ It's too late!
It's now no outs and runners on first and third base
That was unlucky, the out that we originally could have gotten was..
That pitcher's in a pinch!
Look, his face is turning green!
It must have hurt when that pitcher batted just now.
The fact that they are able to hit like that, is precisely because they trained hard at their swinging!
A hit is a hit!

This is undoubtedly the obstacle that will put your abilities to test!
Well then, will he allow the opponent to gain more runs, or will he manage to hold them down?
We aren't expecting your strikeouts.
I'll pass back home and get them out!
Let them hit to this spot!
Focus on the batter, Sawamura!
The opponent is eager to get at least 1 out.
The infielders were in a position that was prepared to lose 1 point
Yes! I'm depending on everyone!
He's really respectful to everyone, huh? except for me...

Batter, if it's an easy pitch, it's okay to hit it.
Runner on first, steal a base at the first pitch.
Runner on third, if an opportunity arises, run back home
We definitely won't give you the time to recover!
That pitcher, ever since the balk, has started wavering
Will you steal a base?
Are you planning to steal a base?

I guess it's time for me to be up...
Calm down, Eiji-kun...
Instead, it's to not allow the runner to get the upper hand and steal a base
Listen up, Sawamura! The purpose of a pickoff is not to get an out!
Urgh...
Use a glare and stop the runner from running.
For a southpaw who faces the runner on first...
First, use a glare.

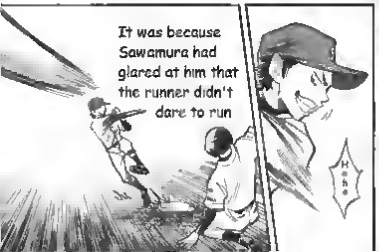
Then, feint a pickoff..
What?
Eh !?
Too easy!
It'll be hit——
Then pitch quickly...

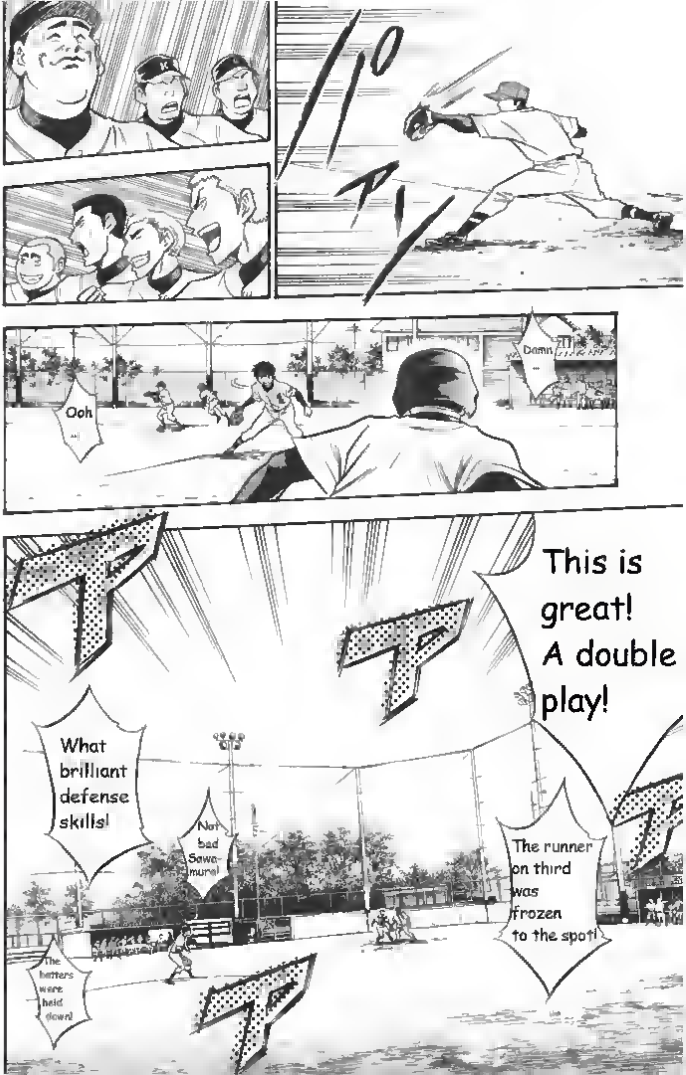
What to do now ..
Eh.....?
I've caught the ball
The glove -
Ah ... The ball went into...

Oh right, there's a runner on third

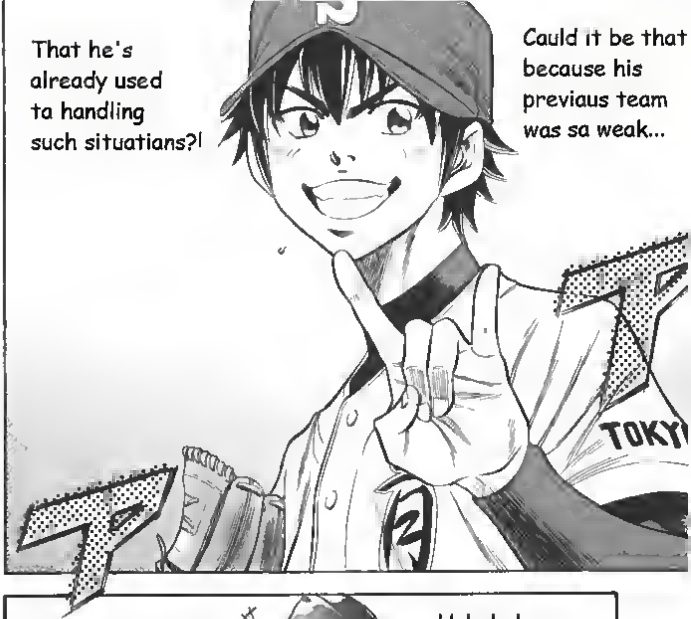
Oh... So I was supposed to pass to second...

Sawamura! Quick, pass to second!
It can be a double play!

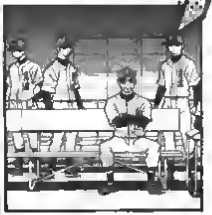

It was because Sawamura had glared at him that the runner didn't dare to run
Hehe


Damn...
Ooh...
This is great! A double play!
What brilliant defense skills!
Not bad Sawamura!
The runner on third was frozen to the spot!
The batters were held down!

He doesn't know how to do a pickoff, but actually knows how to do a high-speed pitching?!
What the hell is wrong with this pitcher!
Coach your true nature is coming out...
So you've already learnt high speed pitching,huh?
Seems like it's the real thing!
Even though that was just a straight down the middle fastball..
Is that so...
Yeah! This was all taught to me by Chris-senpai!
Although I don't believe that you were doing it purposefully I must admit that it was a fine play
The pickoff that ignored the runner on third just now..
But he was actually unexpectedly calm!
Hehe.. I thought he would have been in a panic.


That he's already used ta handling such situatians?!
Cauld it be that because his previaus team was sa weak...
TOKY

Both af them are sa interesting!
Even though it s alsa hard ta lead them
Hahahaha... Be it Furuya ar Sawamura...



From the Translator

Hello everyone, it's me ogoin.
I think there were probobly o few errors here ond there ogoin, probobly more thon the lost chopter, becouse I reolised thot there were more words thot seems like professionol boseboll terms. Which I have no ideo how to tronslote. So I just put down some words thot I believe to hove the some meoning...
And I'm hoping I'm not wrong. And since this wos done using Point (cos idk how to use Photoshop), the quolity is, os you con see, not reolly good. Even though the RAWs were. Pleose reploce these when better quolity ones ore out (: . I'll probobly quit doing this soon, since my major exoms ore coming out, but if no group picks this up ofter October or something, you'll probobly see my tronslotions coming up ogain, sodly.

RAWs were token from Crozy's Mongol

-LittleJay

(Oh ond by the woy... I'm not really sure if the title is correct... The Mondorin scons were "克里斯的直传秘技".)

Chapter 51 - Lightly

カキーン
RIGHT FIELDER!
TOKYO
THE BALL'S FALLING!
RUNNER, QUICK, HEAD TO THE HOME PLATE!
ザッ
RUN...
...
RUN...
パシッ
...
W
WOW!

SHIRASU-SENPAI!
IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING SOMEONE CATCH LIKE THAT!
SHI-RASU.
NICE CATCH!
Erm
TOKYO
WHAT DOES THE COACH THINK ABOUT SAWAMURA'S PITCHING?
IT'S GOOD THAT EVERYONE IS WORKING THIS HARD EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE TIRED FROM THE TRAINING CAMP
WHEW... THANK GOD WE PREVENTED THEM FROM GETTING RUNS
THIS IS BAD FOR THE HEART
RIGHT BEFORE IT REACHED THE BAT, IT FELT LIKE THE BALL
THE BALL HAD MORE POWER BEHIND IT THAN I EXPECTED.
WHAT?
AH... YES..
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! TO HIT THE BALL LIKE THAT WHEN YOU ARE SWINGING THE BAT

THE BALL WAS MOVING STRANGELY...
IT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE A NORMAL BACKSPIN FASTBALL.
TO PITCH A BALL THAT MOVES RIGHT BEFORE IT REACHES THE BAT IS A NATURAL SKILL...
KATAOKA-SAN
COULD IT BE THAT YOUR SECRET WEAPON IS...
FOR OUR PLAYERS WHO ARE ALREADY USED TO PITCHING MACHINES, THESE TYPES OF PITCHES ARE VERY TROUBLESOME.
DURING ELEMENTARY OR MIDDLE SCHOOL, AMONG THOSE WHO HAD YET TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL TRAINING, THERE ARE OCCASIONALLY PITCHERS WHO ARE ABLE TO PITCH THESE KINDS OF BALLS...
OSAKA

桐生 3 4 3 1 0 0
青道 1 0 1 0 1
CASUAL AND NATURAL...
AN IRRITATING BATTING POSTURE.
YOU REALLY WON'T MAKE IT.

ALSO, THE LAST OUT YOU GOT WAS JUST BECAUSE OF SHIRASU'S FIELDING
SO ALTHOUGH YOU KEPT THEM TO 0 RUNS, IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF YOUR ABILITY.
NO OUTS, RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRD. THAT DOUBLE PLAY,
WAS JUST A STROKE OF GOOD LUCK.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU KEPT ASKING FOR PITCHES TO THE INSIDE CORNER!
IF YOU HAD MIXED SOME OTHER BALLS IN, I'LL...
HE'S PICKING ON MY FAULTS.
IF YOU KEEP ON PITCHING EASY BALLS LIKE THE ONE YOU DID JUST NOW, IT WON'T BE STRANGE TO SEE THEM KEEP ON GETTING RUNS AFTER RUNS
OR THE ABILITY TO PITCH A BREAKING BALL THAT WOULD SWERVE TO THE OUTSIDE CORNER FROM THE INSIDE CORNER?
YOU, DO YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO PITCH AN ACCURATE BALL TO THE OUTSIDE CORNER?
UGH...
UGH NO, BECAUSE
WHAT?
WHAT DID YOU SAY? CAN YOU REPEAT THAT?
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO KEEP ON ASKING FOR PITCHES TO THE INSIDE CORNER!

HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING AT THE OPPOSING PITCHER ?
THE TWO TIMES HE WAS UP, ALL HE'S BEEN PITCHING TO TETSU-SAN ARE PITCHES TO THE INSIDE CORNER!
DAMN!
DIDN'T EVEN FLINCH...
IF IT'S LIKE THIS, IT'LL BE HARD TO PITCH TO THE OUTSIDE CORNER.
WHATEVER IT IS, ALL I CAN DO NOW IS TO ASK FOR PITCHES THAT HE'LL FIND HARD TO HIT.
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IT'S BECAUSE THE CATCHER IS TRYING TO AVOID A HEAD-ON BATTLE WITH TETSU.
EVEN IF BOTH OF THEM ARE FOUR BALLS, A FOUR BALLS THAT'S TRYING TO AVOID A BATTLE AND A FOUR BALLS THAT'S TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT HAS A DIFFERENT MEANING FOR THE BATTER.
TOKYO

スパッ
I'LL THROW THE BALL TO YOU, TACHI!
OK OK, NICE PITCHING!
FOUR BALLS!
THIS GUY'S PITCHES TO THE INSIDE CORNER SHOULD BE HARD TO HIT...
DO YOUR BEST AGAINST THE NEXT BATTER!
ニコッ
AND THEN...
THE INSIDE-CORNER-ONLY ATTACK WILL BE INGRAINED INTO THE MIND OF THE NEXT BATTER...

MASUKO, THE ONE WHO'S BATTING AFTER TETSU
WILL BE LURED TO SWING AT A BALL TO THE OUTSIDE CORNER...
EH?
IT'S HERE!
AN EASY BALL TO THE OUTSIDE CORNER -----..

FIRST BASE-MAN!
I'LL DO IT!
AAH... A FLY BALL TO FIRST BASE...
DAMN, SO IT WAS A SLIDER!
WHAT'S WRONG? THE FIFTH BATTER HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO HIT TODAY...
.....!!

SEE?
ISN'T IT DEEP? PITCHING, THAT IS...
THE ONLY THING SUPPORTING YOUR PITCHING RIGHT NOW IS YOUR VIGOUR.
SO WHY NOT TRY PITCHING BALLS TO THE INSIDE CORNERS WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT?

IF I DON'T MANAGE TO HIT SOMETHING SOON
Stares---.
THESE GUYS PROBABLY WON'T HOLD BACK ON TEASING ME...
I HAVEN'T REALLY BEEN MANAG-ING TO HIT TODAY...
EVEN THOUGH I'M BEING SO ARRO-GANT...
I BETTER CHOOSE THE PITCH TO HIT CAREFULLY---.
Scary...

WHATEVER IT IS, LET'S JUST USE PITCHES TO THE INSIDE CORNER AGAINST HIM!
AND USE A PITCH TO THE OUTSIDE CORNER OR A FASTBALL TO FINISH HIM OFF.
HE KEEPS ON LETTING EASY BALLS SLIP BY, AND PURPOSELY AIM FOR HARDER-TO-HIT BREAKING BALLS...
EVEN THOUGH WE'VE MANAGED TO HOLD THIS BATTER DOWN AT HIS TWO AT-BATS, I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF BATTER HE IS...
THE RUNNER IS TRYING TO STEAL A BASE--
WHAT HE'S ALREADY WINDING UP
TACHI'S ALREADY FORGOTTEN THAT THERE'S A RUNNER ON BASE
TOKYO

DAMN!
OH!
NICE RUN-NING!
GOOD JOB, TETSU!
THAT WAS JUST LIKE THE PLAYER OCHIAI STEALING A BASE!
WHAT PERFECT MOVE-MENTS!
WOAAAH! THE CAPTAIN MANAGED TO STEAL A BASE!

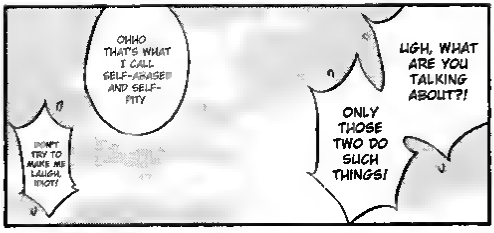
TACHI, THERE'S 4 MORE INNINGS LEFT!
DON'T LET THE OPPONENTS SCORE EVEN 1 MORE POINT!
MM. THAT'S BECAUSE THERE'S A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN MIYUKI'S CONCENTRATION LEVEL BETWEEN A SITUATION WHEN THERE'S A RUNNER ON FIRST AND WHEN THERE'S A RUNNER ON SECOND
HE PROBABLY WANTED TO STEAL A BASE FROM THE BEGINNING
SUCH A TEAM WOULD BE STRONG...
THE PLAYERS ARE HITTING DEPENDING ON THEIR OWN ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION...
IF IT'S YOU, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT, WON'T YOU?
COACH, WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

KIRYU IS UNEXPECTEDLY AN INTERESTING TEAM!

HAHAHA! HE ACTUALLY GAVE INSTRUCTIONS OF NOT LETTING THE OPPONENT SCORE ANYMORE..
AND AFTER GETTING THOSE INSTRUCTIONS, THAT PITCHER ACTUALLY SEEMS SO HAPPY...

MM... THAT'S PROBABLY THE ONLY GOOD POINT ABOUT US...

THIS GUY...


DON'T TRY TO MAKE ME LAUGH, IDIOT!
OHHO THAT'S WHAT I CALL SELF-ABASE AND SELF-PITY
ONLY THOSE TWO DO SUCH THINGS!
UGH, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

IS ACTUALLY ABLE TO BE SO CALM...

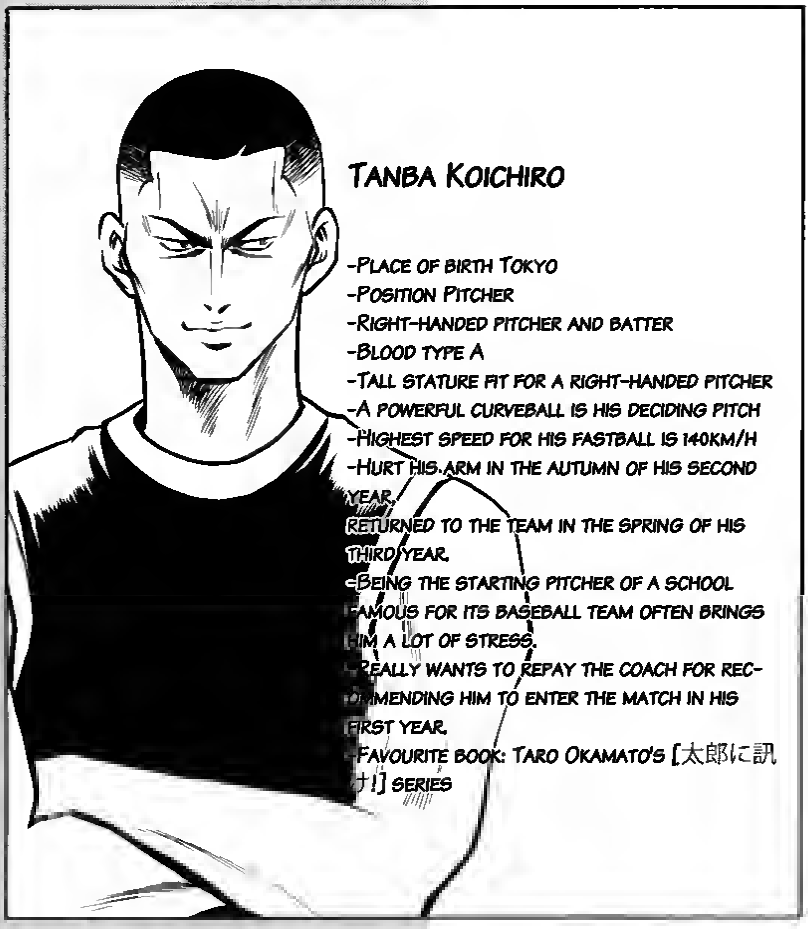
USE YOUR ABILITY OF PITCHING A HEAVY BALL...
AND HOLD HIM DOWN!
THE RUNNER MANAGED TO STEAL SECOND BASE.
TACHI...USE A PITCH TO THE OUTSIDE CORNER TO DECIDE THIS!
NOT BAD!
IT'S LOOKING GOOD---.

!!
!!
HOW COULD THIS BE?
HE ACTUALLY MOVED ONE STEP FORWARD TO HIT THE BALL IN THAT SITUATION...
IT'S IN! A SOLID HIT THAT STICKS CLOSE TO THE RIGHT FOUL LINE!
AGAINST A PITCHER THAT MAKES USE OF HIS ARM STRENGTH TO PITCH
WE HAVE TO USE FORCE TO COUNTER HIS!
MIYUKI REALLY PERFORMS WELL WHEN THERE'S A RUNNER ON BASE!

NICE BATTING, MIYUKI!
OOH! HE GOT BACK 1 POINT!
WE CAN STILL CATCH UP!
WOAAH...
WHAT AGGRESSIVE BATTING!
THAT BALL WAS ACTUALLY FORCIBLY PULLED TO BE A SOLID HIT...
WOOOOOAAH!

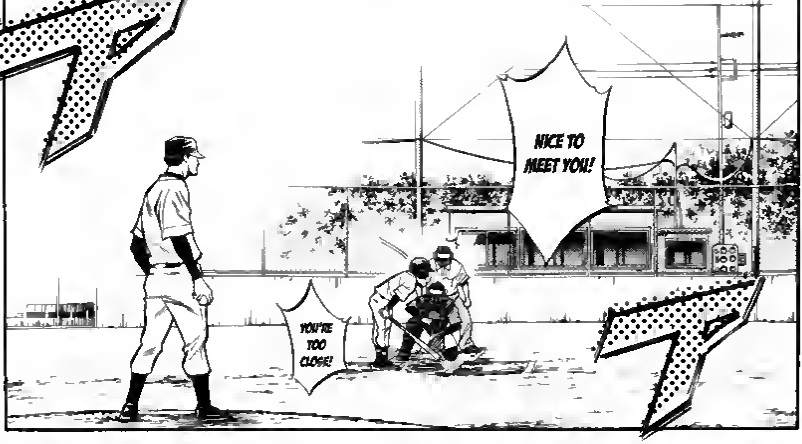
青道選手図鑑 (せいどうせんしゅずかん)

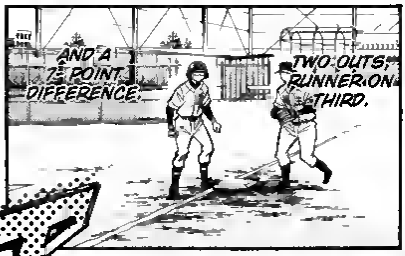
Vol.10

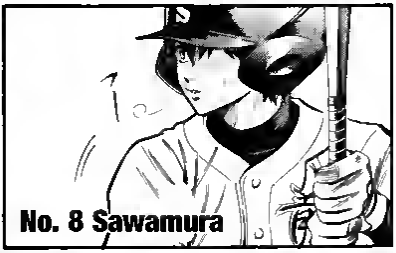


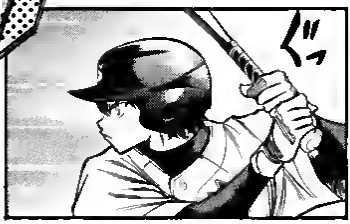
TANBA KOICHIRO

-PLACE OF BIRTH TOKYO
-POSITION PITCHER
-RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER AND BATTER
-BLOOD TYPE A
-TALL STATURE FIT FOR A RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER
-A POWERFUL CURVEBALL IS HIS DECIDING PITCH
-HIGHEST SPEED FOR HIS FASTBALL IS 140KM/H
-HURT HIS ARM IN THE AUTUMN OF HIS SECOND YEAR.
RETURNED TO THE TEAM IN THE SPRING OF HIS THIRD YEAR.
-BEING THE STARTING PITCHER OF A SCHOOL FAMOUS FOR ITS BASEBALL TEAM OFTEN BRINGS HIM A LOT OF STRESS.
-REALLY WANTS TO REPAY THE COACH FOR RECOMMENDING HIM TO ENTER THE MATCH IN HIS FIRST YEAR.
-FAVOURITE BOOK: TARO OKAMATO'S [太郎に訊け!] SERIES


NICE TO MEET YOU!
YOU'RE TOO CLOSE!


AND A 2-POINT DIFFERENCE.
TWO OUTS, RUNNER ON THIRD.


No. 8 Sawamura



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エース

SAWAMURA, CHOOSE YOUR PITCH CAREFULLY!
ME TOO...

Chapter 52 – Pissed off...

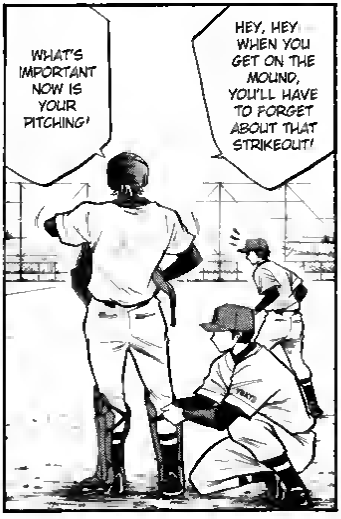
YOU'RE OUT!
STRIKE THREE!
DAMN! I WAS SO CLOSE!
IN WHAT WAY WAS THAT CLOSE?
AND WHY IS YOUR SWING SO SLOW?! ARE YOU EVEN TRYING?!
I GUESS HE'S NOT QUITE THERE YET...
NICE PITCHING!
NICE PITCHING!
NICE PITCHING, TACHI!

DON'T LET TACHI DOWN! HIT MORE OF THEIR PITCHES TO SECURE OUR VICTORY!
YEAH!
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THE NEXT FEW INNINGS!
NOT BAD, TACHI! GOOD JOB!
IN A TOUGH MATCH, LOSING ONE OR TWO POINTS IS TO BE EXPECTED.

I MUST DEFINITELY LAND A SOLID HIT NEXT TIME! DEFINITELY!
IMPOSSIBLE!
DAMN!!!

JUST KEEP PITCHING TO THE INSIDE CORNER!

.....


WHAT'S IMPORTANT NOW IS YOUR PITCHING!
HEY, HEY WHEN YOU GET ON THE MOUND, YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGET ABOUT THAT STRIKEOUT!

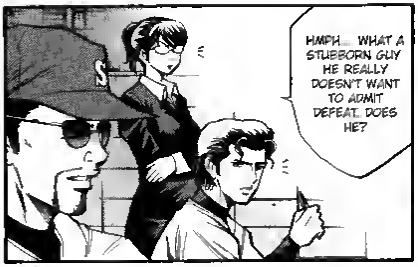
AM I NOT SUPPOSED TO?!
YOU SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN MORE HUMBLE LISTENING TO MY ADVICES LIKE THIS
OH?
OKAY!
HAVE THEY SEEN THROUGH SAWAMURA'S PITCHES?
A BATTING STANCE AIMING TO HIT A PITCH THAT'S HEADING TOWARDS THE SIDE OF THE STRIKE ZONE...

EVEN IF YOUR PITCHES HAVE QUIRKY MOVEMENTS JUST BEFORE REACHING THE BAT, IT'S STILL NOT A POWERFUL PITCH.
EVEN IF THE HIT MAY SEEM A BIT FORCED, AS LONG AS IT'S OUR PLAYERS DOING IT, IT CAN STILL BE BLASTED AWAY WITH SHEER POWER.
AS LONG AS WE REDUCE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE BAT AND THE BALL WHEN WE'RE SWINGING, RIGHT BEFORE THE BALL ENTERS THE MITT...
IF IT'S LIKE THIS, IT'S EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO NOT GIVE THEM EASY-TO-HIT PITCHES.
THEY ARE INDEED A SCARY TEAM.
TO PITCH TO THE INSIDE CORNER...
I'LL USE ALL MY STRENGTH ...
青道

HA!
HE MISSED...
MAKE IT FLY!

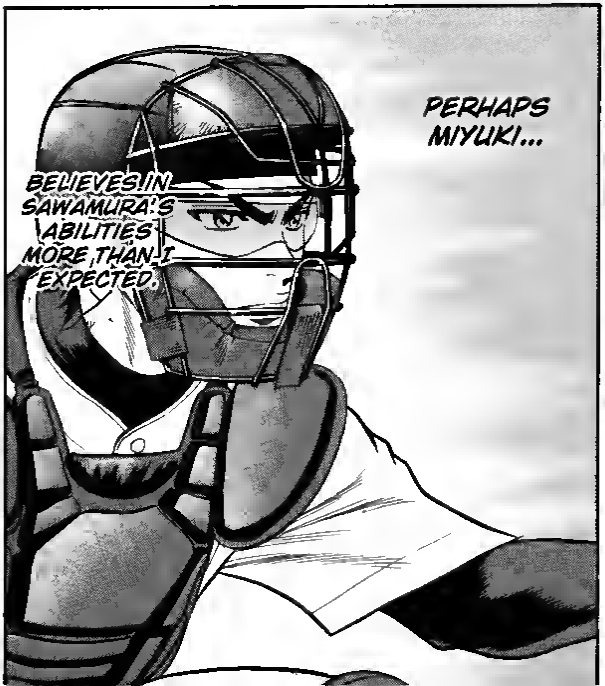
!!
OH NO!
HEH!

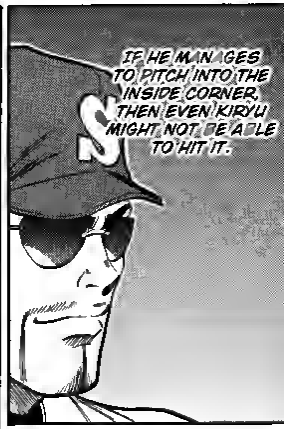
WOAAH! HE ACTUALLY USED HIS OWN BODY TO STOP THAT POWERFUL GROUNDER!
AND LOOKS UNHARMED TOO!
IT APPEARED! MASUKO'S VICTORY POSE!
MASUKO-SENPAI!
THAT MAKES IT ONE OUT, SAWAMURA!
IF THE PITCHES ARE EASY TO HIT, THEY'LL DEFINITELY BLAST THEM AWAY...
HE WAS SAVED BY THE FIELDERS AGAIN...
BUT THE 3RD, 4TH AND 5TH BATTERS ARE ABLE TO HIT LONG BALLS...


HMPH... WHAT A STUBBORN GUY HE REALLY DOESN'T WANT TO ADMIT DEFEAT. DOES HE?

YEAH... SEEMS LIKE IT...
IT SEEMS LIKE MIYUKI IS SERIOUS ABOUT HOLDING BACK KIRYU'S LINEUP

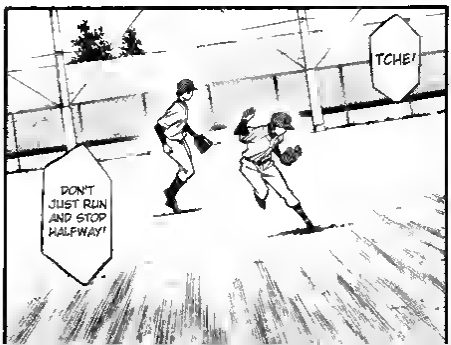
..... WHETHER OR NOT SAWAMURA'S FASTBALL IS SUITABLE FOR A HIGH SCHOOL TEAM.
I ONLY ASKED HIM TO FIND OUT...

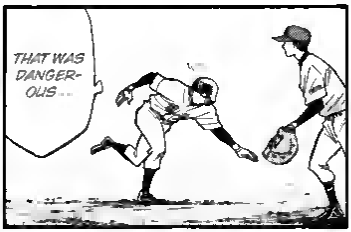

PERHAPS MIYUKI...
BELIEVES IN SAWAMURA'S ABILITIES MORE THAN I EXPECTED.


IF HE MANAGES TO PITCH INTO THE INSIDE CORNER, THEN EVEN KIRYU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO HIT IT.

LEFT FIELD!
TOO SOFT...
IT'LL PASS THROUGH THE LEFT FIELD!
RUN! CONTINUE TO SECOND BASE!
THE BALL'S FLYING OVER HERE...
WHA... WHY IS IT HIM?!

ST... STOP!
!!
桐生
RUNNER, STOP AT FIRST BASE!


TCHE!
DON'T JUST RUN AND STOP HALFWAY!

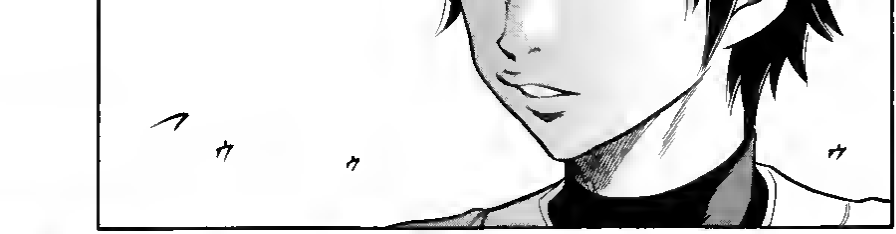

THAT WAS DANGER-OUS...

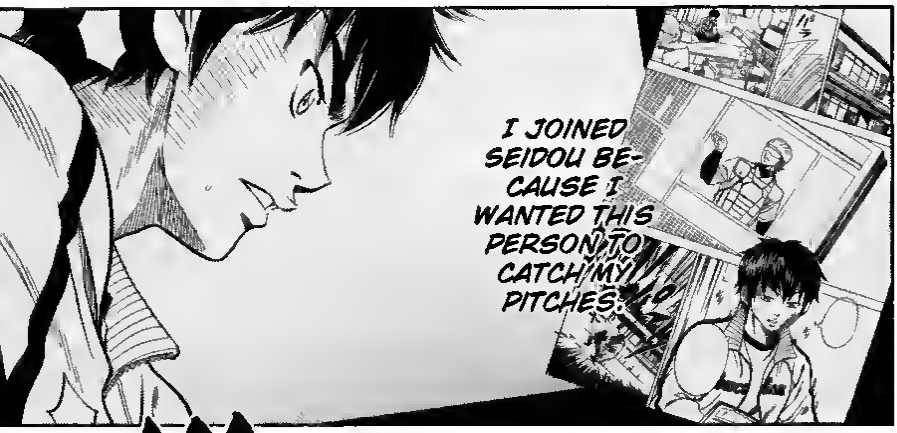
SHOULDN'T YOU BE MORE DETERMINED TO FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED
WHO ARE YOU CALLING MOUSTACHE-SENPAI, YOU BASTARD?!
YOU SCARED THE RUNNER BACK TO FIRST BASE WITH YOUR FACE!
AS EXPECTED OF MOUSTACHE-SENPAI!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A MATCH
IT'S OKAY, ISN'T IT
SORRY, TIMEOUT PLEASE!
YOU IDIOT, THEY GOT ANOTHER SINGLE OFF YOU!
SAWAMURA...
THE NEXT BATTER IS THE CLEANUP HITTER, YOU KNOW?
OSAKA
WHAT?!

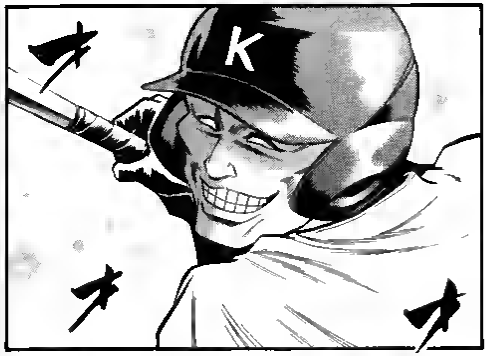
THAT'S FINE BUT I ACTUALLY...
EH?!
AS YOU ARE RIGHT NOW, WHAT I'M ASKING IS PROBABLY TOO HARD.
I WON'T ASK YOU TO PITCH TO THE INSIDE CORNER ANYMORE
IT WOULD BE A WASTE TO NOT ENJOY THIS BATTLE.
THAT BATTER IS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSAKA TEAM.
AND YOU'RE STANDING ON THE MOUND TO FACE HIM
SO... JUST PITCH WITH YOUR INSTINCT, IN ANY WAY YOU LIKE!
LEAVE THE REST TO US!

FURUYA DID STRIKE HIM OUT THOUGH.
HAHAH, NOTHING!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
HE'S NASTY...
AND SELF-CENTERED ...
SOME TIMES I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING...
IS HE ENCOURAGING OR PRESSURING ME?
DAMN IT!
PISSES ME OFF!
HE REALLY...

EVEN SO...
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
TOKYO
ドゥン
HAHAHA... PLEASE DO HOLD BACK A LITTLE!
I'M BACK TO TAKE REVENGE FOR THE PREVIOUS AT-BAT!
OSAKA
ぐっ
ドゥン
I...
ドゥン




I JOINED SEIDOU BECAUSE I WANTED THIS PERSON TO CATCH MY PITCHES.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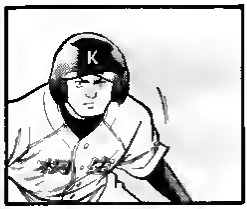
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S

I'LL MAKE YOU ACKNOWLEDGE MY ABILITIES!

STRIKE!
ST...
THE... THE INSIDE CORNER...
OSAKA
YOU SEE...
HEH
WASN'T THAT A PITCH TO THE INSIDE CORNER YOU JUST THREW?

CHAPTER 53/SELF-REFLECTION

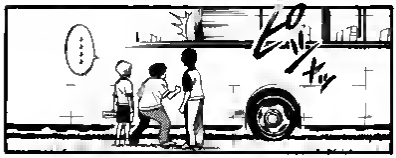
AREN'T YOU GUYS LUCKY! YOU HAVE FOUR MANAGERS IN YOUR CLUB
OUR TEAMS ARE TOO SCARY SO SCARY THAT NO ONE DARES TO BECOME A MANAGER
AND ALL YOUR MANAGERS ARE CUTE TOO

YOUR ATTACK IN THE NINTH INNING MADE US BREAK OUT IN A COLD SWEAT.
OH YEAH! YOU GUYS ARE STILL IN TRAINING CAMP, RIGHT?
YOU GUYS WERE TOO CLINGY, IT WAS SO HARD TO SHAKE YOU OFF!
YOU'RE SO NOISY! HOW COULD WE HAVE ALLOWED THE MATCH TO END JUST LIKE THAT?
BEFORE THE 9TH INNING, YOU GUYS WERE SO FIERCE WE COULDN'T SCORE ANYTHING!!
HEY!
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, WE'LL PAY IT BACK TO YOU TENFOLD!
HAHA. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE WISHING FOR!

I WAS REMINDED OF THE ME FROM BACK THEN. THIS WILL PROVIDE ME WITH MOTIVATION AND AFFECT ME POSITIVELY.
AFTER SEEING BOTH OF YOUR PERFORMANCES ...

EVEN THOUGH THE TWO OF YOU ARE JUST FIRST-YEARS, YOUR PITCHING WAS QUITE GOOD!

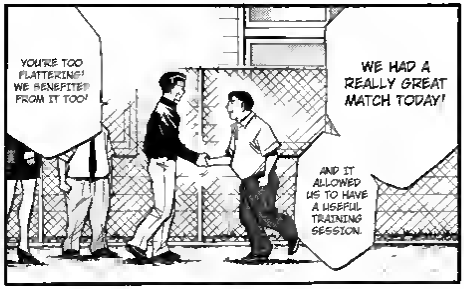
CONTINUE TO WORK HARD...

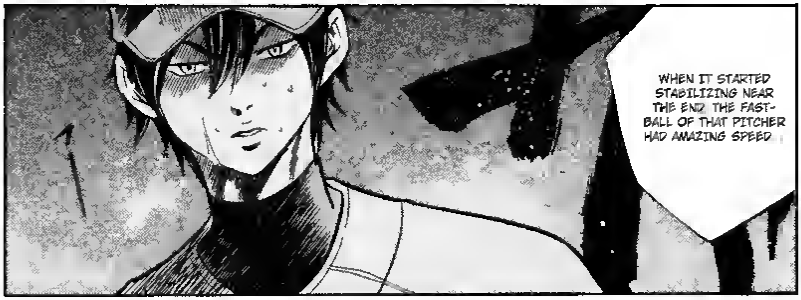

.....

I WANT TO SEE HIS SMILE...
INTROVERTED
DON'T THINK BADLY OF HIM CONTRARY TO HIS LOOKS, TACHI IS ACTUALLY PRETTY INTROVERTED

I'LL DO MY BEST!
Y... YES!

FOR YOU TO HAVE TWO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TYPES OF PITCHERS AMONGST YOUR FIRST-YEARS...
WHILE WE'RE ON THE TOPIC, I MUST SAY, I REALLY ENVY YOU, KATAOKA-SAN!


WE HAD A REALLY GREAT MATCH TODAY!
YOU'RE TOO FLATTERING! WE BENEFITED FROM IT TOO!
AND IT ALLOWED US TO HAVE A USEFUL TRAINING SESSION.

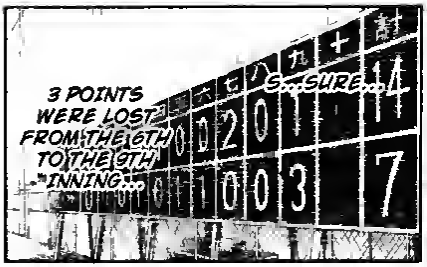

WHEN IT STARTED STABILIZING NEAR THE END, THE FASTBALL OF THAT PITCHER HAD AMAZING SPEED.

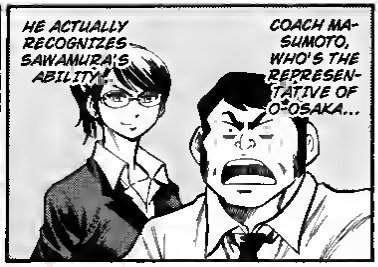
So he noticed
EVEN THOUGH THEY ALSO SEEM TO WAVER AT TIMES...

THE LEFTY PITCHER THAT WENT UP FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE MATCH, TOO...
HIS PITCHES REALLY SURPRISED US.
S
青道
TOKYO

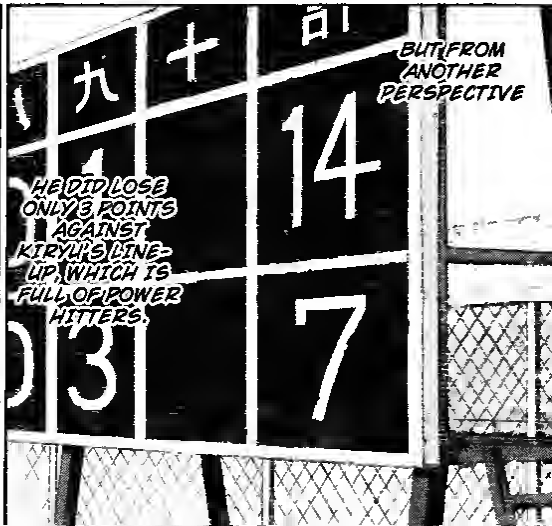
I CAN UNDERSTAND KATAOKA-SAN'S FEELINGS OF WANTING THEM AS SECRET WEAPONS
.....

IF HE MANAGES TO GAIN A STABLE CONTROL...
HE'LL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO BECOME AN IMPRESSIVE PITCHER, WON'T HE?

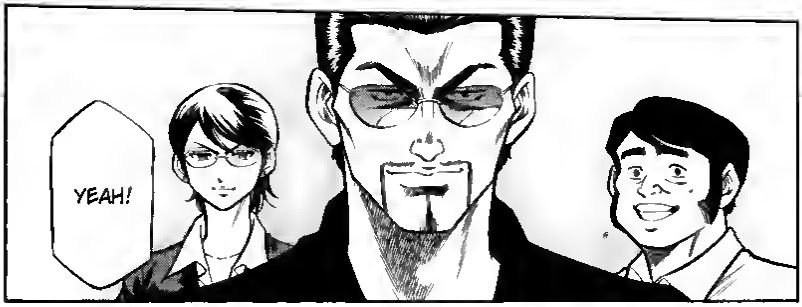

3 POINTS WERE LOST FROM THE 6TH TO THE 9TH INNING...
S...SURE...!

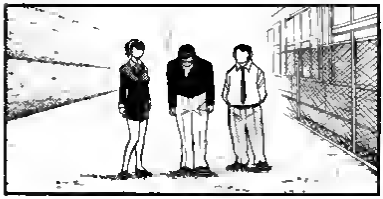

HE ACTUALLY RECOGNIZES SAWAMURA'S ABILITY!
COACH MASUMOTO, WHO'S THE REPRESENTATIVE OF O-OSAKA...

HEHE. AREN'T YOU A STRICT COACH?!
HE'S STILL LACKING IN MANY WAYS!

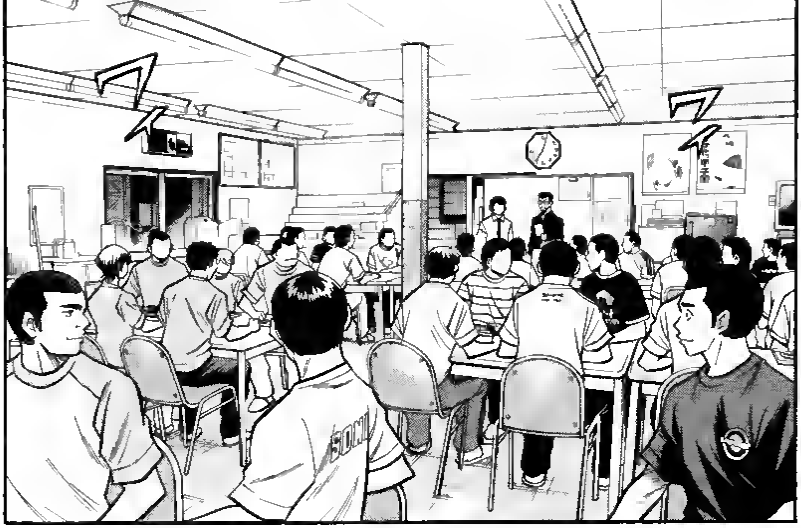

BUT FROM ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE
HE DID LOSE ONLY 3 POINTS AGAINST KIRYU'S LINE-UP, WHICH IS FULL OF POWER HITTERS.
14
7
3

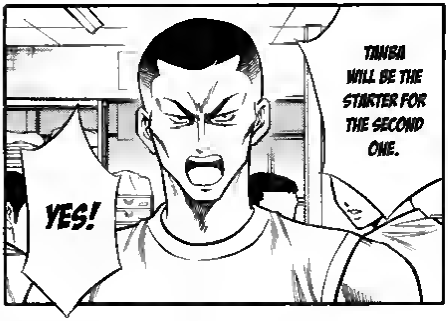
WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO FACING YOU AGAIN IN KOUSHIEN!
WELL, WHATEVER IT IS, THIS MATCH REALLY GAVE OUR PLAYERS A BOOST!


YEAH!



YES!
HEY, WE ARE GOING TO KANAGAWA TOMORROW!
LET'S KEEP OUR SPIRIT UP AND MOVE OUT!
大
学校




TANEDA WILL BE THE STARTER FOR THE SECOND ONE.
YES!

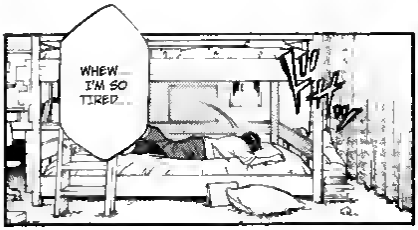
YES!
WE HAVE TWO MATCHES TOMORROW.
THE PITCHER FOR THE FIRST ONE WILL BE KAWAKAMI.

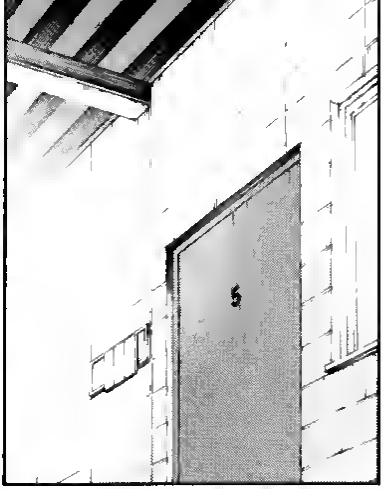
HUH? WHY ARE THE TWO OF YOU EATING SO LITTLE TODAY?

MM...

YES!
EVEN THOUGH THE TWO OF YOU ARE PROBABLY FEELING TIRED, I'LL STILL HAVE YOU BOTH PITCH ONE WHOLE MATCH EACH!
GOT IT?
SHAVED FISH
BOWIE 17

FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL REALLY TIRED
BLANKING OUT...
SO THIS IS THE KIND OF PRESSURE A FIRST-STRING MEMBER HAS TO DEAL WITH
Heh
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DID YOUR BEST TODAY
The both of you did
LOSER
WHO DO YOU THINK PERFORMED BETTER? BE HONEST!
HUH?
TELL US AND GIVE US REASONS!
I...
OH YA...
WHATEVER IT IS... I REALLY ENVY THE TWO OF YOU, FOR BEING ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MATCH...
UNLIKE ME, WHO DIDN'T EVEN GET THE CHANCE TO PLAY...
S-SORRY, HARU-CHII!
I didn't do it on purpose!
I'LL GIVE THIS TO YOU! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
I'LL GIVE THIS TO YOU TOO!
YOU'RE JUST GIVING ME YOUR LEFTOVERS!





I DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING ANYTHING...

TODAY TOO...

BA-THUMP
IN THE END, THE ONLY ONE I MANAGED TO PITCH TO THE INSIDE CORNER WAS THAT ONE.
JUST ONE MORE
DAMN IT...

GREAT! WE GOT A HIT!
LET'S CRUSH THE OPPONENT THIS INNING!
PITCHES THAT GOT NEAR THE MIDDLE ALL GOT BLASTED TO THE OUTFIELD.
THE CURRENT ME... IS ONLY A BURDEN TO ALL THE SENP_IS ON THE FIELD...
MY DEFENSE WAS DRAGGING EVERYONE DOWN.
カコーン
I TOTALLY LACKED CONTROL TOO...

I HAVE TO IMPROVE...
I MUST IMPROVE MY CONTROL.
SAME GOES FOR MY BATTING.
MY FIELDING TOO.
ARGH! DAMN IT!
MY BODY IS SO TIRED ALREADY, BUT I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO FALL ASLEEP!

HHH
STAMINA.
CONTROL.
HAA
HAA
STROL
AH IT'S MIXED UP
AAAAAAAH!
STAMINA
CONTROL

.....
YOU....! WHY ARE YOU SECRETLY PRACTICING HERE BY YOURSELF!
BOWIE
THAT'S TOO CUNNING OF YOU!
COULD IT BE THAT WE COULDN'T SLEEP EITHER?
NOT LIKE THERE'S ANY HARM DONE...
BESIDES IF IT'S YOURS YOU SHOULD WRITE YOUR NAME ON IT...
You can't do that!
HOW CAN YOU JUST TAKE SOMEONE ELSE'S THINGS WITHOUT PERMISSION?!
AND YOU WERE ACTUALLY USING MY TIRE!
HAHAHAHA... WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING?
THEY ARE ACTUALLY QUARRELLING OVER A TIRE?
HUH? WHERE?
I DID! LOOK, IT'S HERE!
SHUT UP!
WHAT YOU USED PENCIL TO WRITE IT?
AND YOU ONLY WROTE THE PHONETIC NOTATIONS

THEY WON'T BE PITCHING TOMORROW ANYWAY. JUST LET THEM DO WHAT THEY WANT!
IT MUST BE THANKS TO THE EXCESS OF ADRENALINE THAT THEY COULDN'T FALL ASLEEP!
THE KID

EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD A MATCH TODAY, THEY ARE STILL PRACTICING?
SO? WILL YOU TELL THEM TO STOP?

OH RIGHT

YEAH.

SINCE YOU WERE CATCHING FOR SAWAMURA TODAY, FROM FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HIS PITCHING?
ROOKIE

HIS PITCHING WAS NEVER LOUSY...
ALTHOUGH EVERYONE'S FIELDING HELPED A LOT, IT'S TRUE THAT HE KEPT POINTS GAINED BY KIRYU TO ONLY 3 ..
BUT AS FOR HIS CONTROL AND FIELDING...
You... You bastard!
HONESTLY SPEAKING, IF HE GOES ON LIKE THIS, IT'S PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE HIM AS THE MAIN PITCHER FOR THE TOURNAMENT!
SAME AS FURUYA, HE STILL HAS LOTS TO LEARN
I FEEL THAT WAY TOO.
IF IT STAYS LIKE THIS, THE STARTING PITCHER FOR THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT WILL PROBABLY BE TANBA!
SINCE THERE'S ALSO FURUYA'S STAMINA PROBLEM TO CONSIDER...
BUT... I HOPE HE UNDERSTANDS THAT HIMSELF.

IF HE HAD MANAGED TO UNLEASH HIS POTENTIAL, HE WOULD HAVE BECOME THE ACE OF THE TEAM LONG AGO...
IT'S BECAUSE THE COACH HAS HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF HIM, THAT'S WHY HE'S SO STRICT TOWARDS HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE
THE KID
BY THE WAY... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE! ACTUALLY...
TANBA ALREADY HATES YOU!
Hehe
SO HE'S ACTUALLY THIS OBSERVANT...
IT CAN'T BE HELPED! BECAUSE A "BATTERY" IS FORMED OF TWO PEOPLE!
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHETHER YOU'RE A KOUHAI OR A SENPAI!
TOGETHER WITH THE FACT THAT YOU ARE HIS KOUHAI... SO... BEING DISLIKED BY HIM SHOULD BE EXPECTED.
WELL, TANBA'S PERSONALITY MAKES HIM PRETTY HARD TO GET ALONG WITH.
AND YOU HAVE TO BE SO BLUNT EVERY TIME...
....

IF IT CAN HELP THE PITCHER TO SHINE ON THE MOUND, I'M WILLING TO DO ANYTHING!
EVEN IF IT MEANS TELLING A LIE OR GETTING DISLIKED BY SOMEONE!

YOU STILL HAVE TO WAKE UP EARLY TOMORROW MORNING! DON'T PUSH YOURSELVES TOO MUCH!

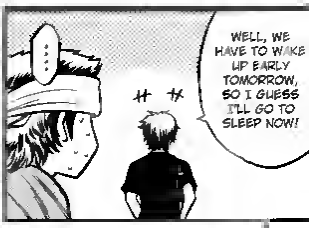
HEY! YOU TWO!

THIS PERSON ...

LOSING SLEEP IS TO BE EXPECTED!
THE TWO OF YOU HAVE LOST A TOTAL OF 15 POINTS...
ニヤッ

!!

WE LOST 14 POINTS IN TOTAL!
DON'T JUST ADD 1 MORE TO IT!
HAHA-HAHA!
PEOPLE LIKE YOU PROBABLY DON'T HAVE MANY FRIENDS...
YEAH! DON'T JUST ADD IT IN!


WELL, WE HAVE TO WAKE UP EARLY TOMORROW, SO I GUESS I'LL GO TO SLEEP NOW!

HEY!
WAIT A MINUTE, YOU BASTARD!

LAST DAY OF TRAINING CAMP
THE THREE HIGH SCHOOLS— SEIDOU, INASHIRO AND SHUUHOKU— ARE PLAYING A DOUBLE-HEADER
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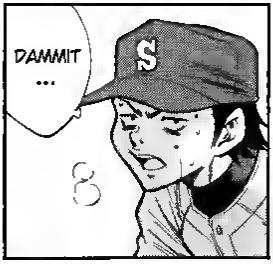
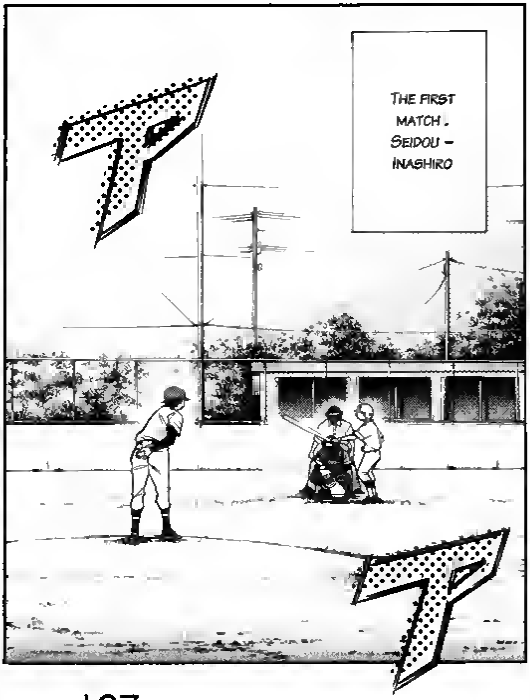
エース


DAMMIT ...
S
3

HE'S DRIPPING CONFIDENCE!
I


THE FIRST MATCH. SEIDOU – INASHIRO

CHAPTER 54/ CONNECTION WITH THE PAST

WOW! FINALLY, IN THE BOTTOM OF THE 8TH INNING, INASHIRO'S BATS HAVE WOKEN UP!
THIS HALF-INNING HAS TURNED THE GAME ON ITS HEAD!
SEIDOU'S READY TO TAKE JUST ABOUT ANY OUT RIGHT NOW!
WITH ONLY THREE OUTS REMAINING FOR SEIDOU, IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO MOUNT A COME-BACK...
FURTHERMORE, TODAY'S OPPONENT IS NOT ANY PRAC-TICE OPPONENT...
THEY LOST TO KIRYU BY A LARGE MARGIN YESTERDAY, TOO...
YOU HAVE TO WONDER ABOUT THE STATE OF SEIDOU! THE SUMMER TOUR-NAMENT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...

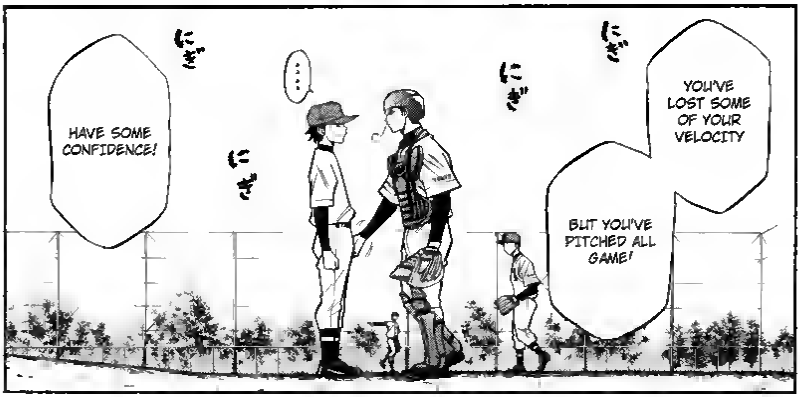
IT'S THEIR BIGGEST RIVAL IN THE REGION...
INASHIRO HIGH!
INASHIRO ALONG WITH THE TOP 3 IN TOKYO HAVEN'T LET ANYONE ELSE ENTER KOUSHIEN FOR FIVE STRAIGHT YEARS!
IF NOTHING'S CHANGED... WELL THEY PROBABLY WON'T REACH KOUSHIEN THIS YEAR EITHER.
INASHIRO HIGH MANAGER
KUNITOMO HIROSHIGE

HANAGAKI!
IF YOU SEND ME OUT THERE COLD, I WON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH IT!
KAWAKAMI'S RUNNING ON FUMES!
HE'S STILL EXHAUSTED FROM THE TRAINING CAMP, TOO ...
DUMB-ASS!
SAWAMURA, COME WITH ME FOR A SECOND
THIS AIN'T YOUR PROBLEM... GET OUTTA HERE!"
NOT MY PROBLEM?
ISN'T THIS A TEAM?
HE KNOWS KAWAKAMI'S ABOUT TO COL-LAPSE,
BUT HE WANTS TO SEE IF HE'S ABLE TO PERSE-VERE UNTIL THE END IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES!

WHERE DOES THAT CONFIDENCE COME FROM?
ARE YOU REALLY THAT STUPID!?
I NEED TO BE ON THE MOUND...
BUT THEY'RE REALLY GOOD!
THEY AREN'T EVEN USING THEIR STARTERS!
WE AREN'T USING OUR STARTERS EITHER!
WHY THE HELL WOULD WE GIVE THEIR SCOUTS MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR TEAM IN GODDAMN SPRING TRAINING?
WHAT?
WE'RE JUST MEASURING UP EACH OTHER
In all aspects
That's ingenious
WOW, REALLY?

AGAINST INASHIRO HIGH, THAT SHIT AIN'T EASY...
WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO PITCH A COMPLETE GAME AGAINST A STRONG RIVAL, INASHIRO HIGH, AND GAIN THE MANAGER'S CONFIDENCE IN YOU?
LOOK, EVEN THOUGH KAWAKAMI'S GOT POTENTIAL, HE'S TOO TIMID.
YOU'VE PITCHED WELL UNTIL NOW, KAWAKAMI, SO DON'T LET IT ALL FALL APART NOW!
THE LAST TWO INNINGS ARE THE ONES WHERE THE PITCHER IS THE MOST TIRED...
WHA...
GRABS!
SHOCKED
HEY...
MIYAUCHI, THE HELL YOU TOUCHING!!?

HMPH.. YOU'VE MADE IT THIS FAR, AND THERE'S NO RELIEF IN SIGHT!
HMPH...
BUT YOU'LL BE FINE!
ff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YOU'VE LOST SOME OF YOUR VELOCITY
BUT YOU'VE PITCHED ALL GAME!
HAVE SOME CONFIDENCE!
...

JUST PITCH!
I'LL CATCH ANYTHING!
TOKYO

CAN YOU LET GO NOW?
UM... YEAH ERM...

YEAH... YOU'LL BE AL-RIGHT!
BREATHES OUT

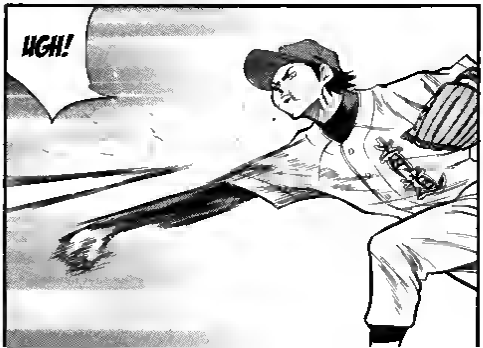
I...I WON'T!
HMPH!
DON'T LET THEM AFFECT YOUR PITCHES!
...
カチャ
カチャ
THE BAT-TERY FOR THE SECOND MATCH WILL BE TANBA AND MIYUKI.
EH? I'M GONNA BE THE CATCHER FOR THE FIRST MATCH?
I'M SO JEALOUS ...
YEAH. I'M HOPING YOU'LL LEAD KAWAKAMI WITH A STERNER METHOD.

I.. I'VE GOT IT! I'LL DO MY BEST!
I DON'T POSSESS MIYUKI'S GAME-CALLING AND STAR-POWER
I'VE KNOWN THAT FOR A WHILE
BUT... IF I GIVE UP HERE, I...
I...

I DEFINITELY WON'T
LET ANY BALLS ROLL TO THE BACK-STOP!
THIS IS ALL I CAN DO RIGHT NOW, AFTER ALL

IT'S AS IF THE MITT GREW LARGER...

THANKS
MIYA-UCHI


UGH!

HIS VELOCITY'S BACK...
JUST OFF THE OUTSIDE CORNER...

JUST STAY CONFIDENT!
WE'LL DEFINITELY GIVE YOU RUN SUPPORT!
NO. 6 SS
KUSUNOKI FUMIYA (SR)

GOOD PITCH, KAWAKAMI!
WE CAN PLAY COUNTRY HARD-BALL IF YOU WANT!
NO. 2 RF
KADOTA MASAAKI (SR)

WE'RE BEHIND YOU!
KICK SOME ASS, KAWAKAMI!
NO. 7 3B
HIGASA SHOUJI (JR)

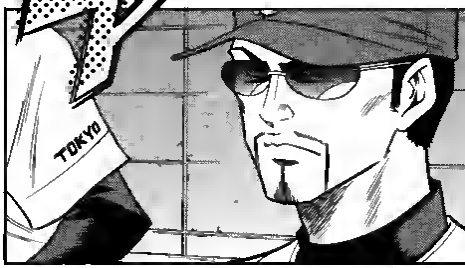
I CAN'T BE THE WEAK LINK HERE!
THESE GUYS ARE AMAZING!
NO. 1 2B (2-3)

DO YOUR BEST, KAWAKAMI!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

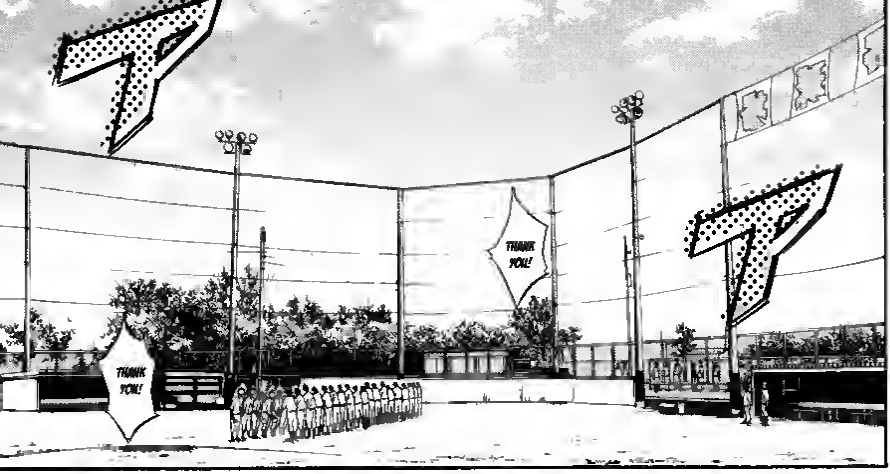
I WANNA PITCH
NO. 5 LF (0-3), RBI

WELL WITH THEIR STRICT TRAINING I'M NOT SURPRISED
SO THE PLAYERS CAN KEEP MORALE UP
INASHIRO

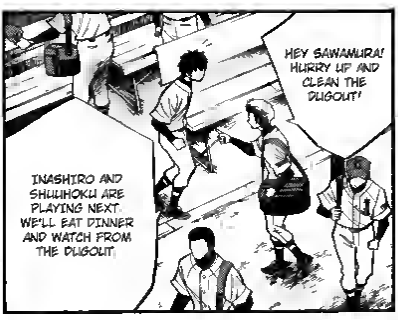
WE CAN'T UNDERESTIMATE THIS YEAR'S SEIDOU...
S
B
O


TOKYO

...


THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

チーム
INASHIRO
SHUUHOKU
INASHIRO MIGHT USE THEIR STARTERS IN THAT GAME


HEY SAWAMURA! HURRY UP AND CLEAN THE DUGOUT!
INASHIRO AND SHUUHOKU ARE PLAYING NEXT. WE'LL EAT DINNER AND WATCH FROM THE DUGOUT.

うおおお
AAARGH! I WANT TO PLAY TOO!"
EVEN THOUGH FURUYA AND HARRY ARE PARTICIPATING, I'M ...!

ME?
HEY! BOUNDLESS ENERGY OVER THERE!
YEAH! YOU!

IT'S SO EXCITING!
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME
PARTICIPATING IN MATCHES BETWEEN THREE SCHOOLS

WILL FURUYA PITCH TODAY?
HE'S FROM INASHIRO HIGH...
YOU JUST WANT TO KNOW IF YOU THROW FASTER THAN HE DOES, DON'T YOU?
I WANT TO SEE HOW FAST HE THROWS...
I HEARD HE'S A FRESHMAN WITH A ROCKET ARM.

HE'S NOT PITCHING TODAY
THESE TWO...
I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT...
EH? REALLY?
SHUT UP! I JUST WANT TO SEE IT, OKAY!?
WHAT A JOKE...
LOSER..
...
THAT'S AWESOME! HE'S A MONSTER!
DUDE QUIT YELLING!
YEAH HE DID
I HEARD HE STRUCK OUT SIX BATTERS IN A ROW AGAINST YOKOHAMA HIGH...
DID YOU TWO HEAR?
THERE'S ACTUALLY ANOTHER INCREDIBLE FRESHMAN PITCHER THAT ENTERED SEIDOU
AW, DAMN! THIS SUCKS!
WHY ISN'T HE PITCHING?
IS HE RESTING?
FURUYA THIS, FURUYA THAT...
HMPH...

THROUGH FIVE, HE GAVE UP 11 RUNS! 11!
BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE IT...
EH? AGAINST KIRYU?
ACTUALLY, AGAINST KIRYU YESTERDAY...
FURUYA STARTED...

THERE WAS A PITCHER WAITING TO TAKE THE MOUND...
THEN... IN THAT TURNING-POINT OF THE GAME...

NO-NO-NO, THAT'S STILL VERY MUCH THE TRUTH!
BULL-SHIT!
INASHIRO

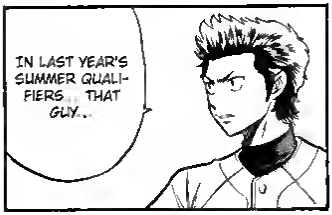
A... A Muay Thai kick.

DUMBASS!
DON'T GIVE AWAY INFORMA-TION ABOUT THE TEAM!

YOURS TR-

FURUYA DIDN'T HAVE HIS STUFF THAT GAME
YEAH... IT'S TRUE
THEN... HE WASN'T LYING?!
What an idiot
THAT WAS THE TRUTH?
I ALWAYS THINK THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE OF WHATEVER YOU SAY!
KAZUYA
THEY KNOW EACH OTHER?
I'LL BE KEEPING MY EYES ON YOU!
HELL YEAH!
OH RIGHT, YOU'RE THE PITCHER TODAY, AREN'T YOU?
SEE YA!
I HATE THIS GUY!
LET'S GO, ME!
HAHAHA!
OH YEAH... KAZUYA PLAYED YOU LIKE A FIDDLE LAST YEAR
UP YOURS! WE'RE LEAVING!

EH?


IN LAST YEAR'S SUMMER QUALIFIERS... THAT GUY..

YOU BETTER WATCH HOW HE PITCHES!
SAWAMURA... HE'S A LEFTY, JUST LIKE YOU

TOSHIBA
KIRIN
WHEN HE PITCHED IN RELIEF HALFWAY THROUGH THE GAME, HE SHUT US DOWN..

WE'LL HAVE TO BEAT HIM TO MAKE IT TO KOUSHIEN!
HE'S THE ROADBLOCK ...

INASHIRO HIGH'S JUNIOR ACE
NARUMIYA MEI
INASHIRO

SEIDOU PLAYER ENCYCLOPEDIA

VOL. 11

MIYAUCHI KEISUKE (SR)

- PLACE OF BIRTH: SAITAMA PREFECTURE
- POSITION: C
- THROWS: R BATS: R
- BLOOD-TYPE: O
- HAS A STRONG, UNYIELDING WILL
- NOT AS TALENTED AS MIYUKI BUT A GREAT CATCHER IN HIS OWN RIGHT
- BLOCKS HOME PLATE EXCEEDINGLY WELL
- HAS HIGH ENDURANCE AND TRAINS SECRETLY
- TOUCHES PITCHERS' CROTCHES TO HELP THEM RELAX, BUT THIS SEEMS TO HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT
- INTEREST: FITNESS
- FAVORITE: BEETLES

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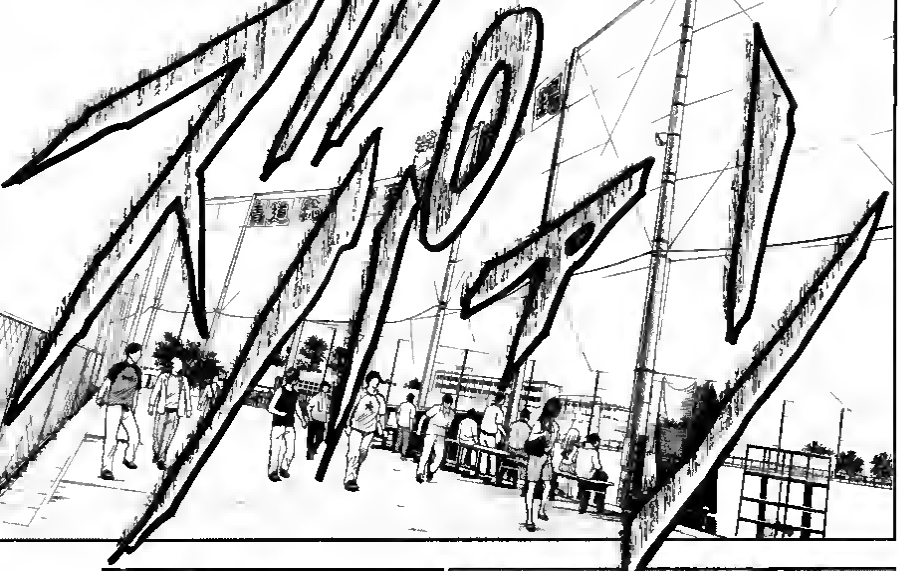

ナイン!

THE 2ND
MATCH
INASHIRO -
SHUUHOKU

CHAPTER 55/ WITNESSED

I DON'T KNOW WHERE HIS PITCHES ARE GOING...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IF THE PITCH IS IN THE ZONE, SWING THE BAT!!
YOU CAN'T GET A HIT IF YOU DON'T SWING!!
ALTHOUGH THEY'VE MUSTERED 5 HITS THROUGH 6 INNINGS...
HE ALWAYS COMES THROUGH IN THE CLUTCH! I'M IMPRESSED BY INASHIRO'S ACE'S ABILITY!
HE'S ACTUALLY MANAGED TO QUIET SHUUHOKU'S LINEUP: ONE THAT IS BECOMING KNOWN FOR ITS PROWESS AMONG SCHOOLS IN EAST TOKYO...
一 二 三 四 五 六 七
修北 0 0 0 0 0 0
稲城 2 1 0 3 2 0
BUT NOW HE'S SHOWING HIS SKILLS...
HE DIDN'T PITCH WELL IN THE EARLY INNINGS!
HMPH, THAT PUNK!

A NASTY SLIDER...
A SPLITTER WHERE THE BOTTOM JUST DROPS OUT...
THEY BOTH BECOME THAT MORE DEVASTATING WHEN YOU COMBINE IT WITH HIS...

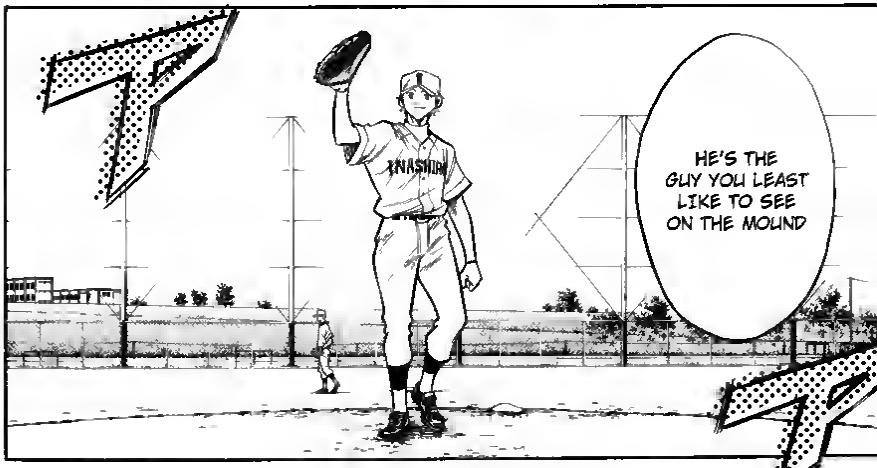
148KM/H
4-SEAMER!

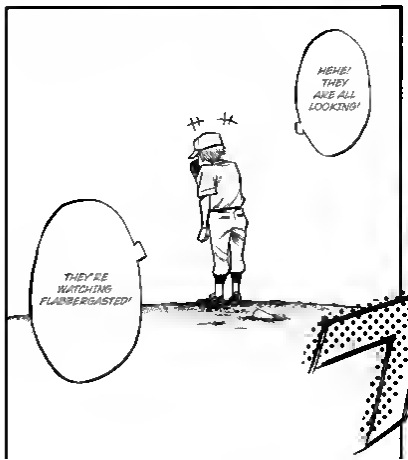
...
BACKED WITH A POWERFUL FASTBALL...
BREAKING BALLS WITH HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL MOVEMENT
HE'S LIKE THE PROTOTYPICAL PITCHER

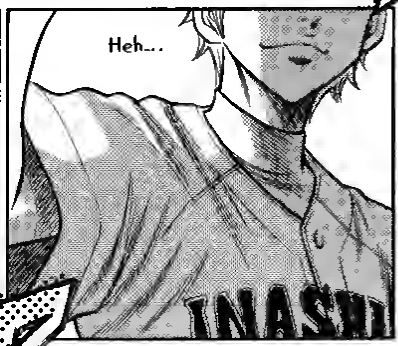
SEEM TO RECOGNIZE THAT PITCHER'S CLASS
EVEN THOSE TWO '.

HEY! YOU GUYS BETTER BE TAKING NOTES!

YEAH... FROM AN OPPONENT'S VIEW...


INASHIRO
HE'S THE GUY YOU LEAST LIKE TO SEE ON THE MOUND


HEHE! THEY ARE ALL LOOKING!
THEY'RE WATCHING FLABBERGASTED!


Heh...
INASHI

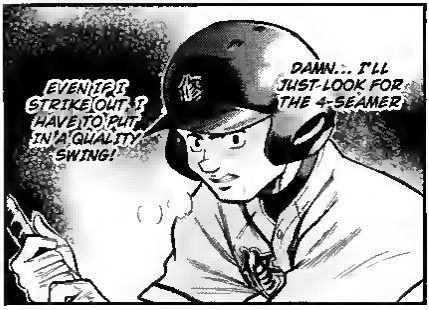
I LOVE THE SHOCK ON BATTERS' FACES THE BEST!
I HOPE I CAN MATCH UP AGAINST THEM SOON!
SERIOUS...?
YOU'RE GOING TO THROW THAT HERE?

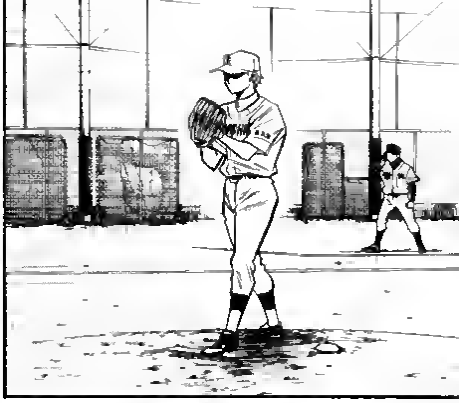
DIDN'T THE MANAGER TELL YOU NOT TO THROW THAT?

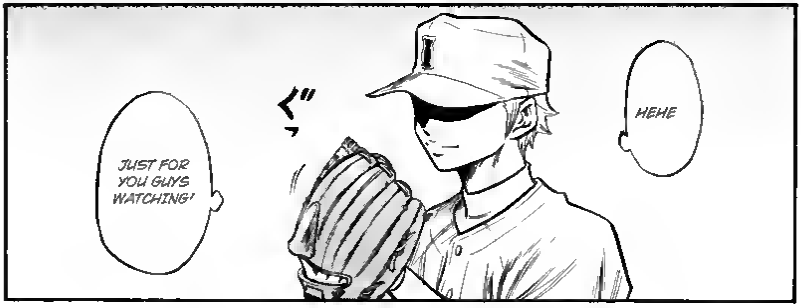
WHEN YOUR ASS IS GRILLED AFTER THE GAME ...
AIN'T MY FAULT...

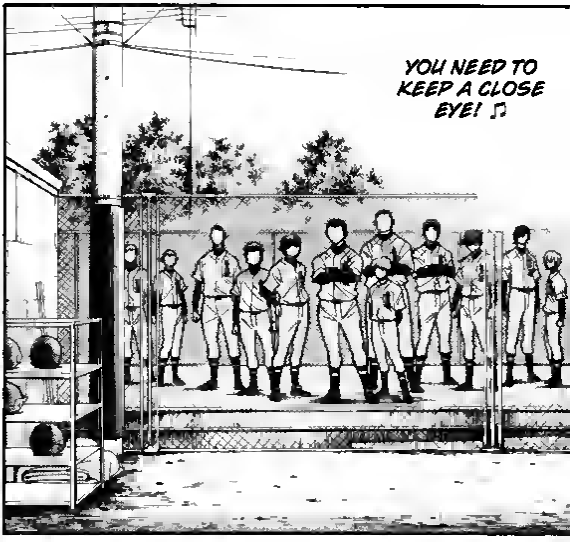
I WANNA THROW IT I WANNA THROW IT I WANNA THROW ITI WANNA THROW IT I WANNA THROW IT I WANNA THROW ITI WANNA THROW IT I WANNA THROW IT I WANNA THROW IT

HELL NO! WHATEVER
CHE


EVEN IF I STRIKE OUT, I HAVE TO PUT IN A QUALITY SWING!
DAMN... I'LL JUST LOOK FOR THE 4-SEAMER



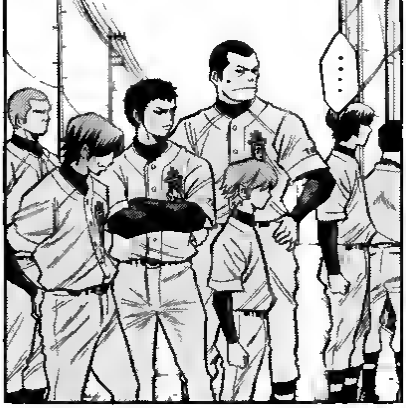

JUST FOR YOU GUYS WATCHING!
HEHE


YOU NEED TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE! ♫

ガガガ
NASY

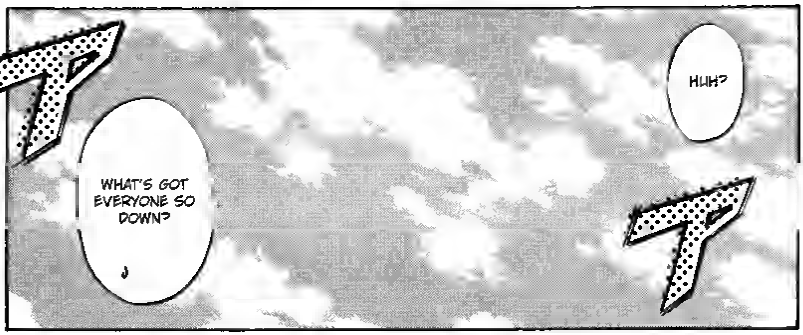
THE... THE BALL...
DIDN'T CROSS THE PLATE YET ...

STRIKE THREE!
YER OUT!
青道
CHE...
A CHANGEUP ...
YEAH!


.....

WHAT WAS THAT KINDA-FAST-KINDA-NOT PITCH?
?

WHY COULDN'T THE BATTER HIT IT?
?
.....


HUH?
WHAT'S GOT EVERYONE SO DOWN?

ヒュオオオオ
!!

NICE, MEI!
THANKS!
GREAT PITCHING, MEI!

HIT THE SHOWERS
EHHH? YOU'RE PULLING ME?

DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO GIVE AWAY INFORMATION TO OUR OPPONENTS?

NOT ONLY DOES HE HAVE A POWERFUL FASTBALL...
BREAKING BALLS WITH HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL MOVEMENT...
AFTER SEEING THAT PITCH, I KNOW WE'RE IN TROUBLE
CHE...
BUT NOW HE CAN CHANGE VELOCITY...
HOW MUCH BETTER IS HE GONNA GET!?
THAT PUNK...
INASHIRO

THERE'S NO CRYING IN BASEBALL!
YOU WERE ASKING FOR IT BY THROWING THAT PITCH TO SCARE THEM
UH, DUH?
MASA, HE PULLED ME
Even though I'm the ace!
RIGHT!
IT'S NOT WRONG TO SHOW YOUR DETERMINATION TO SEIDOU
YOU'VE WORKED HARD TO DOMINATE KOUSHIEN
WE GREW STRONGER!
BECAUSE OF LAST YEAR'S EXPERIENCE
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! I WORKED REALLY HARD THIS YEAR!
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO AGREE! YOU'RE THE LEAST HUMBLE GUY I KNOW!
AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO GROW STRONGER!
YEAH!

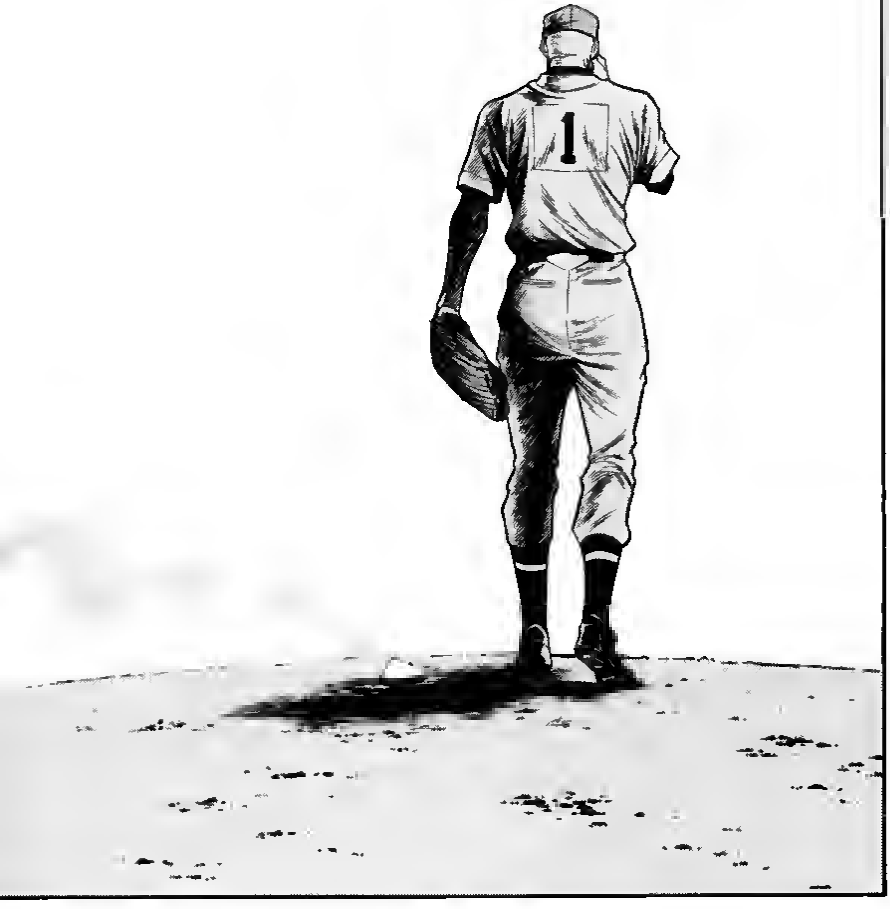
THEY'VE NEVER MADE IT TO THAT PLATEAU...
THOSE GUYS HAVEN'T
STOOD ON THE STAGE OF KOUSHIEN!
BUT WE, WE ALREADY HAVE...
西東京

I WANNA KICK THEIR ASS!
THAT LOOK ON THEIR FACES IS JUST BEGGING FOR THEM TO GET SMASHED!
IN THESE SITUATIONS ONLY THE OPPOSING PITCHER CAN SWING MOMENTUM
I ABSOLUTELY MUST HIT TODAY
HEHEHE . I CAN'T WAIT!
HE MUST TIP HIS PITCHES IN SOME WAY
I'LL FIND IT!
TOKYO
MEI... YOU WERE PROBABLY TRYING TO SCARE US WITH THAT PITCH, WEREN'T YOU? TOO BAD. IT SEEMS TO HAVE CAUSED THE OPPOSITE EFFECT
WE WON'T BE SCARED THAT EASILY...

I HAVE TO BECOME A PART OF THE TEAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS WELL...
HAHAHA! I WON'T LOSE!
EVEN THOUGH I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT'S GOING ON, I WON'T ADMIT DEFEAT ...
I WON'T LOSE EITHER
I HAVE TO WORK EVEN HARDER
HUH?
MIYUKI, LET'S WARM UP!
WON'T IT BE EASIER TO SEE IF I'M IN GOOD CONDITION IN THE BULLPEN?
...

IT'LL BE EASIER FOR YOU TOO, SINCE YOU'LL KNOW WHICH PITCHES TO CALL!
青道
!
...
TANBA...

CHAPTER 56/ BASED ON EVALUATION



THE THIRD MATCH OF THE DOUBLEHEADER.
SEIDOU – SHUUHOKU

HEH!
TOKYO

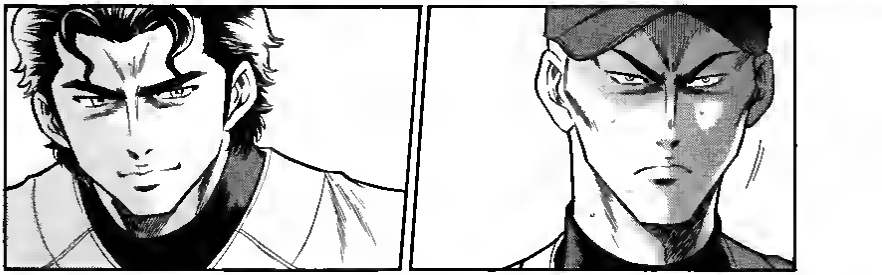
YER OUT!
STRIKE THREE!
NICE PITCHING!
THAT WAS NASTY!
AWESOME, TANGA!

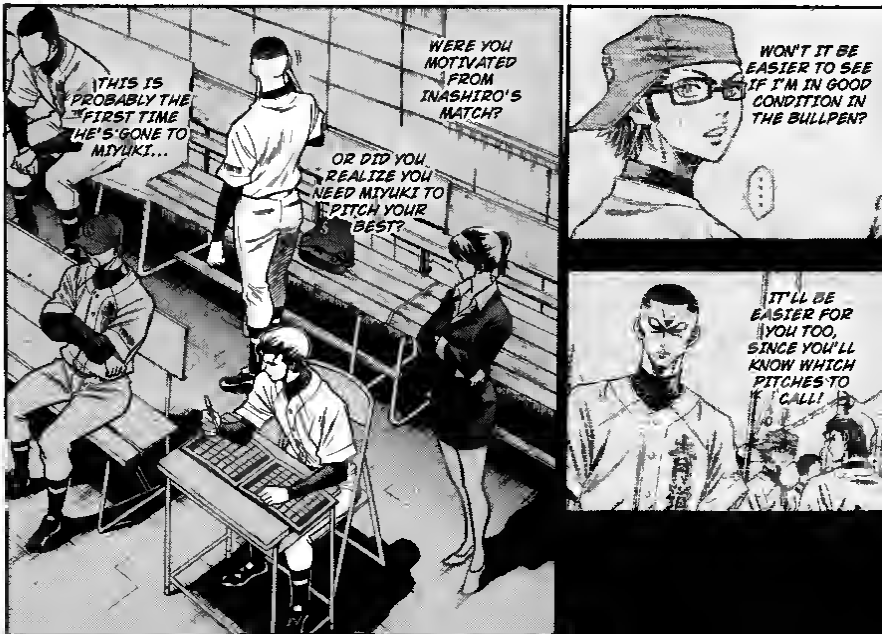
HE'S IN GOOD CONDITION
HE HAS PINPOINT CONTROL WITH THOSE CURVEBALLS, TOO
HE'S A RARE BREED
THAT CURVEBALL'S DAMN HARD TO HIT BECAUSE OF ITS STEEP CURVE
INASHIRO
THE NEXT BATTER PROBABLY PREFERS OFF-SPEED STUFF.
S
フッ
TANBA, GO RIGHT AT HIM!
THERE'S NO NEED TO NIBBLE

RYOU!

TANIDA, THAT WAS GREAT!
ATTABOY, SHORT-STOP!
HELL YEAH, DOUBLE PLAY!
GOOD PITCH!
HM... THE CURVEBALL APPEARS TO BE HIS GO-TO PITCH
HE BARELY ALLOWED ANY HITS.
TO THAT CATCHER'S GAME-CALLING...
AND IT'S INCREDIBLE EFFECTIVENESS IS DUE...

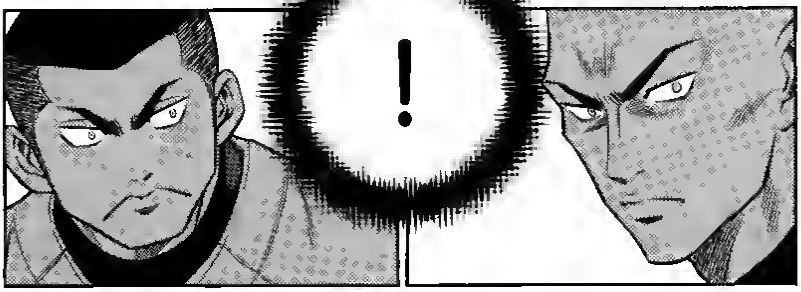
YOU WERE AWESOME, TANBA!
AND HE'S COMING INTO FORM MORE AND MORE...
HE THREW 43 PITCHES THROUGH 5




THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME HE'S GONE TO MIYUKI...
WERE YOU MOTIVATED FROM INASHIRO'S MATCH?
OR DID YOU REALIZE YOU NEED MIYUKI TO PITCH YOUR BEST?
WON'T IT BE EASIER TO SEE IF I'M IN GOOD CONDITION IN THE BULLPEN?
IT'LL BE EASIER FOR YOU TOO, SINCE YOU'LL KNOW WHICH PITCHES TO CALL!

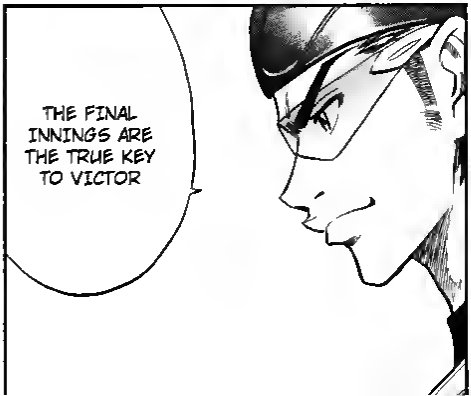
HE IS CERTAINLY PITCHING QUICKLY...
DOES MIYUKI NOT NEED IT?
BUT HE DIDN'T CALL FOR A SPLITTER ONCE...
THE OPPONENTS HAVE PROBABLY STARTED LOOKING FOR A CERTAIN PITCH...
TANBA

LET'S USE THE SPLITTER THIS INNING ...


!

HE ACTUALLY THOUGHT THAT THROUGH...

A COMPLETE GAME PERFORM-ANCE IS ONE OF OUR GOALS TODAY.
YOU HAVEN'T THROWN MANY PITCHES ANYWAY. WE CONTROL HOW THE GAME GOES FROM HERE.


THE FINAL INNINGS ARE THE TRUE KEY TO VICTOR

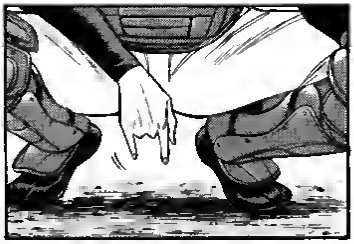
...
EH?
HMPH... I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T CALL THE SPLITTER BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE YOU COULD KEEP IT IN FRONT OF YOU..
HE DOESN'T EVEN GIVE ME SIGNALS
WOAH! HE ACTUALLY DOES SAY CATCHER STUFF!
THAT'S THE SAME GUY WHO ALWAYS ASKS FOR PITCHES ON THE INSIDE CORNER...
HE PROBABLY CALLS A DIFFERENT GAME FOR EACH PITCHER... DUH
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN, TRY IT!

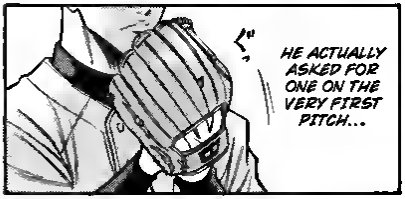
チーム 一 二 三 四 五 六 七
青道 2 3 0 3 1
北 0 0 0 0 0
THE LINEUP'S STILL RACKING UP HITS AS USUAL
INASHIRO SEEMS TO HAVE LIT A FIRE UNDER THEM...
DAMMIT
RAAAAAAA!
HAHA, ISASHIKI, THAT GUY HE WOULDN'T SHOUT IF HE DIDN'T HAVE A HIT...

WHERE...
SHOULD I PITCH?

BORING...
I ALREADY KNEW THEY COULD HIT
IS THERE ANY WAY I CAN SEE FURUYA?
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THEM AND FOCUS ON THE MATCH!
ALTHOUGH THEY ACT LIKE THEIR PITCHING IS WEAK
KAWAKAMI AND TANBA ARE ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD PITCHERS!
MAKE THEM GO TO THEIR BULLPEN!
DO YOUR BEST, SHUNHOKU!!
YOU'RE STILL ON THAT?

AS A PITCHER, I CAN'T WATCH!
THOUGH HE DOES HAVE A VARIETY OF PITCHES...
WILL JUST SELF-DESTRUCT NEAR THE END
BUT THAT PITCHER
キュッ
DON'T OFFER AT THE CURVEBALL!
LISTEN UP! LOOK FOR THE FASTBALL!
DON'T HIDE!
WOAH, HE'S LOOKING HERE!




HE ACTUALLY ASKED FOR ONE ON THE VERY FIRST PITCH...

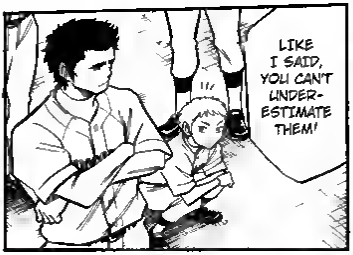
TOKY

ASSHOLE...
HEH!

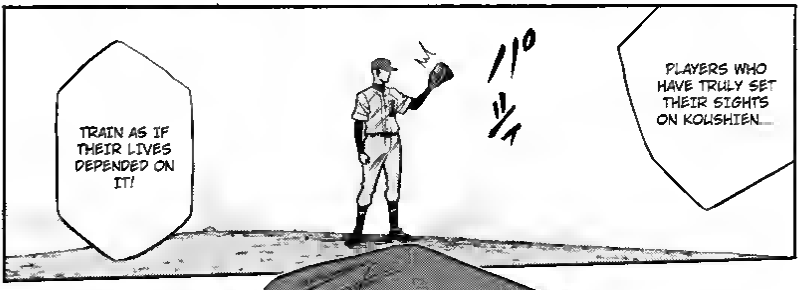
THERE IT IS... FASTBALL...
TOKYO

THE BALL FELL?
TO BE HONEST, IF I HADN'T CAUGHT IT MYSELF
I WOULDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE THAT AMAZING... TANBA...
IT'S SORTA LIKE THE SINKER, BUT IT MAKES A MUCH GREATER DIVE NEAR HOME PLATE
IT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE A FASTBALL...
IF YOU COULD USE THIS PITCH...

HOH...


LIKE I SAID, YOU CAN'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THEM!

HOLY... I DIDN'T KNOW HE COULD THROW A SPLITTER...
IT'S STILL A PRETTY FAST PITCH, ISN'T IT?


TRAIN AS IF THEIR LIVES DEPENDED ON IT!
PLAYERS WHO HAVE TRULY SET THEIR SIGHTS ON KOUSHIEN...

WE'LL BE GOING HOME EMPTY-HANDED INSTEAD!
IF WE DON'T TAKE OUR OPPONENTS SERIOUSLY...

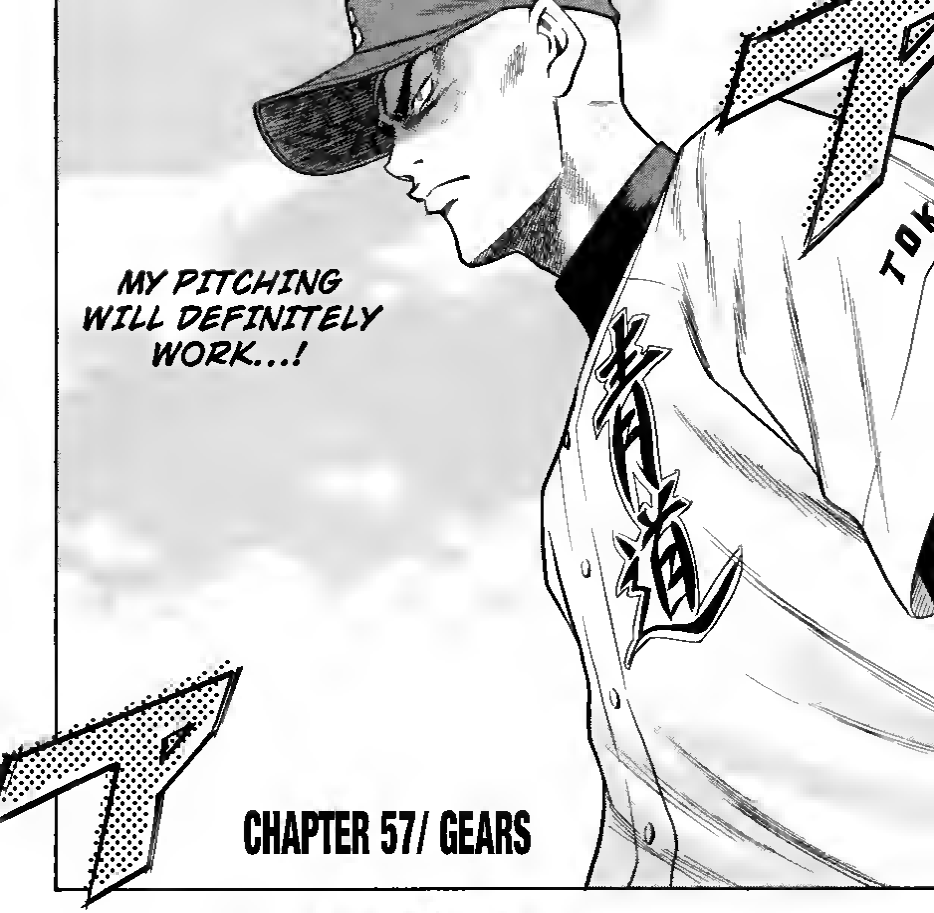
PLAYERS WHO HAVE REALLY SET THEIR SIGHTS ON KOUSHIEN...
EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM WOULD TRAINS AS IF THEIR LIVES LIFE DEPENDED ON IT!
ダイヤのA
エース

IF WE LOOK DOWN ON OUR OPPONENTS TOO MUCH, IN THE END, WE'LL BE THE ONES DEFEATED...!

THIS WILL WORK...

NICE PITCHING!

NICE PITCHING!

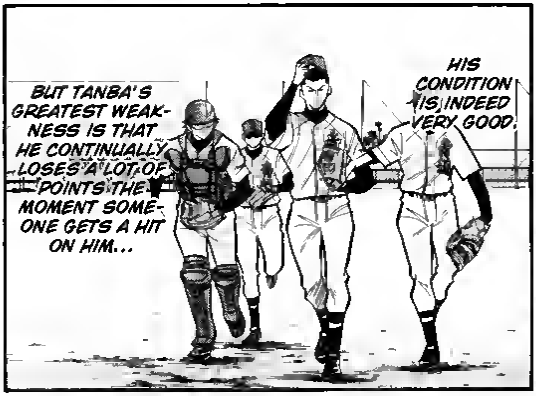

MY PITCHING WILL DEFINITELY WORK...!
CHAPTER 57/ GEARS

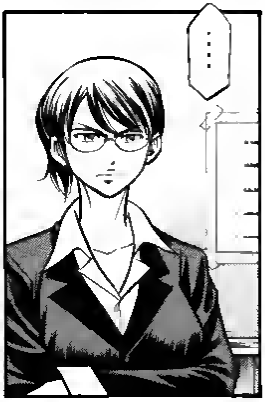
IF IT'S LIKE THIS, IT'LL BE EASIER TO ASK FOR DIFFERENT PITCHES FOR THE REST OF THE MATCH
NO MATTER IF IT'S THE ANGLE OF THE DROP OR THE SPEED OF THE PITCH \\ THERE'S NOTHING TO FIND FAULT WITH

IT SEEMS LIKE HIS CONDITION BEFORE THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT IS PRETTY GOOD ...
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT HE'D BE ABLE TO GET HIS FORKBALL TO BE SO PRECISE...

I WANT TO PITCH TOO.
Ooh

PAIRING HIM UP WITH MIYUKI ALSO SEEMS TO BE A THE RIGHT DECISION NOW TOO.
TANBA NICELY PERFORMED!


BUT TANBA'S GREATEST WEAKNESS IS THAT HE CONTINUALLY LOSES A LOT OF POINTS THE MOMENT SOMEONE GETS A HIT ON HIM...
HIS CONDITION IS INDEED VERY GOOD.


...

THE PROBLEM LIES IN WHETHER HE'LL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THAT WEAKNESS OF HIS.
...

MIYUKI.
FOR THE REMAINING 3 INNINGS, PLEASE ASK FOR PITCHES THAT CENTER AROUND THE FORKBALL
EH?
IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE MATCH, HIS SPEED HAS ALSO DECREASED...
I DON'T REALLY WANT HIM TO PITCH ANY MORE FORKBALLS THAT REQUIRE MORE OF HIS GRIPPING STRENGTH...
THAT PITCH JUST NOW HAS ALREADY SHOWN ITS EFFECTIVENESS.
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO NOT PITCH FORKBALLS IN FRONT OF THOSE GUYS FROM INASHIRO?

I THINK THAT IT'D BE BETTER IF I ASK FOR PITCHES THAT CENTER AROUND THE FASTBALL AND THE CURVEBALL.
THE FORKBALL IS ONLY A BAIT THAT CONS THE BATTER INTO SWINGING.
SINCE THERE AREN'T MANY MATCHES LEFT FOR ME TO PRACTICE PITCHING THE FORK-BALL...
NO... I WANT TO PITCH FORKBALLS.
THOSE TWO REALLY DON'T GET ALONG.
RIGHT WHEN I THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE FI-NALLY ON GOOD TERMS WITH EACH OTHER ...
!

THE THINGS YOU SAID JUST NOW, WERE THEY SPOKEN AS THE PITCHER OF A TEAM?
TANBA
TOKYO
...
TELL ME, WHICH IS IT!?
OR WAS THAT JUST A PLAYER'S STUBBORN OPINION?
IF .. THAT WAS YOUR SELF-CENTRED OPINION ..
!

I WON'T LET YOU BECOME THE ACE!

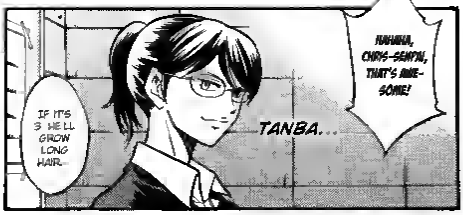
C-COACH!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A MATCH!
...
I BELIEVE IT'S BOTH.
TOKYO
HEY, TANIGA ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
THERE ARE MANY TIMES WHEN I SLOW DOWN AND BREAK DOWN TOWARDS THE END OF MATCHES
AND I KNOW MIYUKI THINKS OF THAT BEFORE HE DECIDES ON THE KIND OF PITCHES HE'LL ASK FOR

I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND ON THE MOUND CONFIDENTLY!
BUT IF I DON'T OVERCOME THIS WEAKNESS OF MINE ON MY OWN...
I'M SAYING THIS TO BECOME THE REAL ACE OF THE TEAM!
THIS IS MY TRUTHFUL OPINION.

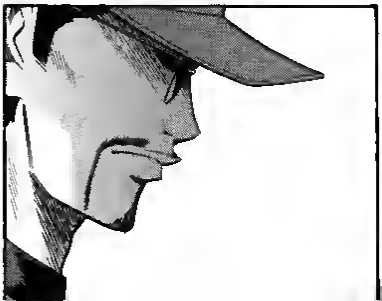
TANBA...
TANBA...
I UNDER-
STAND.

IF THAT'S THE CASE,
I'LL FOLLOW ALONG WITH YOUR IDEA!
HMPH ..
IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO SAY THAT KIND OF STUFF ..
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN IGNORE A PITCHER'S FIRM RESOLUTION ANYWAY.
GOOD IDEA!
I AGREE!!
IF THE OPPONENT GETS HITS OFF YOU LIKE CRAZY, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!
HAHAHAHA. BUT GROWING LONG HAIR IS FINE TOO!
HEY... HEY!
YOU GUYS...
YOU'LL HAVE TO SHAVE YOUR HEAD BALD!

IF HE LOSES 1 POINT, HE'LL SHAVE HIS HEAD BALD
IF IT'S 2, HE SHAVES HIS EYEBROWS TOO.
I'LL NOTE IT DOWN
HEY! WHY IS CHRIS JOIN-ING IN TOO?!


HAHAHA, CHRIS-SENPAI, THAT'S AWE-SOME!
TANBA...
IF IT'S 3 HE'LL GROW LONG HAIR.

I CAN GO UP ON THE FIELD ANYTIME!
AND THE CURRENT YOU



BUT BECAUSE OF YOUR SHY NATURE, THE COACHES SOMETIMES ALSO DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.
WHEN YOU JOINED THE TEAM, PEOPLE HAD HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE REALLY TALL.

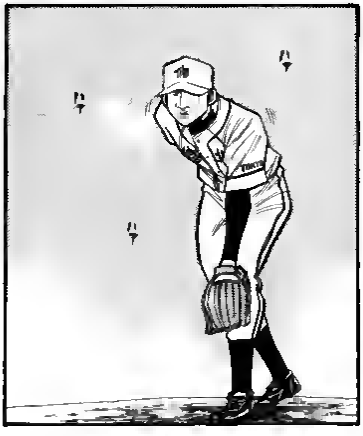
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CHANGE YOURSELF...
IT SEEMS LIKE... BEFORE THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT...
TOKYO
……
……

TRUST OF TEAMMATES ...
IT'S NOT TO MAKE YOU RECOGNISE ME AS THE ACE...
BUT THAT I'LL BE THE ACE AFTER YOU RECOGNISE ME AS THE ACE...
青道
TOY

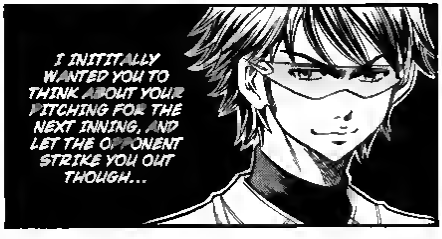
BATTER UP!
AH, THE NEXT BATTER IS TANBA!
SORRY, HE'LL BE THERE IMMEDIATELY!
WOAH! WHEN DID SHIRAISH-SENPAI GET TO THE BASE?
FOCUS ON THE MATCH
AND WHEN DID SAKAI-SENPAI RETURN TO THE DUGOUT?!
IS IT WRONG FOR ME TO RUN BACK FROM THIRD BASE?!
TANBA! GET A HIT!
CHE... THOSE GUYS MUST BE THINKING I WON'T BE ABLE TO HIT IT.
DON'T FORCE YOURSELF THOUGH!
And Don't let it affect your pitching!

I WANT TO TASTE...
MORE VICTORY.
I WANT TO PLAY...
MORE BASEBALL.
I DON'T WANT TO WASTE THE EFFORTS I'VE PUT INTO BASE-BALL.
SHIRO
THIS IS ALL FOR THE SAKE OF STANDING ON THAT STAGE.
ぐっ
ザッ
ザッ
TOKYO

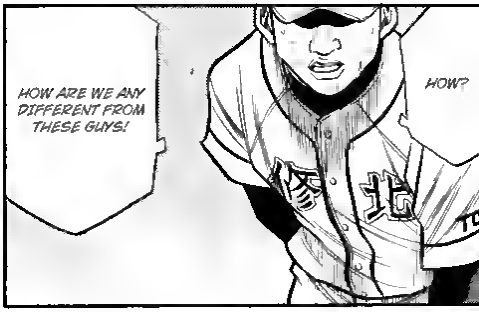
WE'LL...
DEFINITELY GET TO KOUSHIEN!

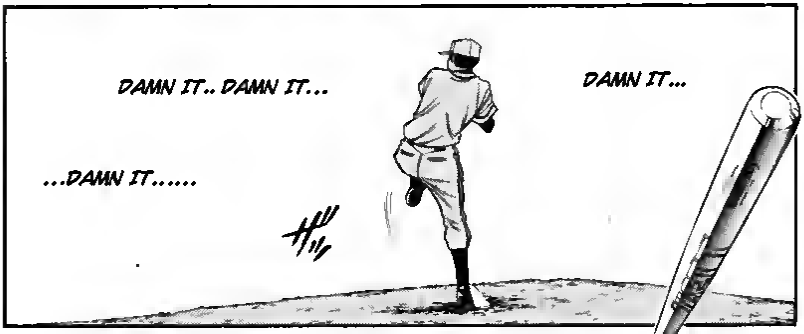


WAHAHA... TANBA IS GOING AT IT FOR REAL!


I INITITALLY WANTED YOU TO THINK ABOUT YOUR PITCHING FOR THE NEXT INNING, AND LET THE OPPONENT STRIKE YOU OUT THOUGH...

チーム
二
青道
2
3
0
3
1
3
修北
0
0
0
0
0
0
WE ALSO WORKED HARD LIKE OUR LIVES DEPENDED ON IT FOR OUR THREE YEARS!


HOW ARE WE ANY DIFFERENT FROM THESE GUYS!
HOW?
北


DAMN IT.. DAMN IT...
DAMN IT...
...DAMN IT.....

DON'T PLAY WITH US!!!
DAMN IT!!!

S
OKYO

DON'T PLA-
OH NO...
MY SWEAT MADE THE BALL SLIP
...

TOKYO

—STAFF—

栗栖正義（くりすまさよし）

山田聡子（やまださとこ）

米澤孝知（よねざわたかとも）

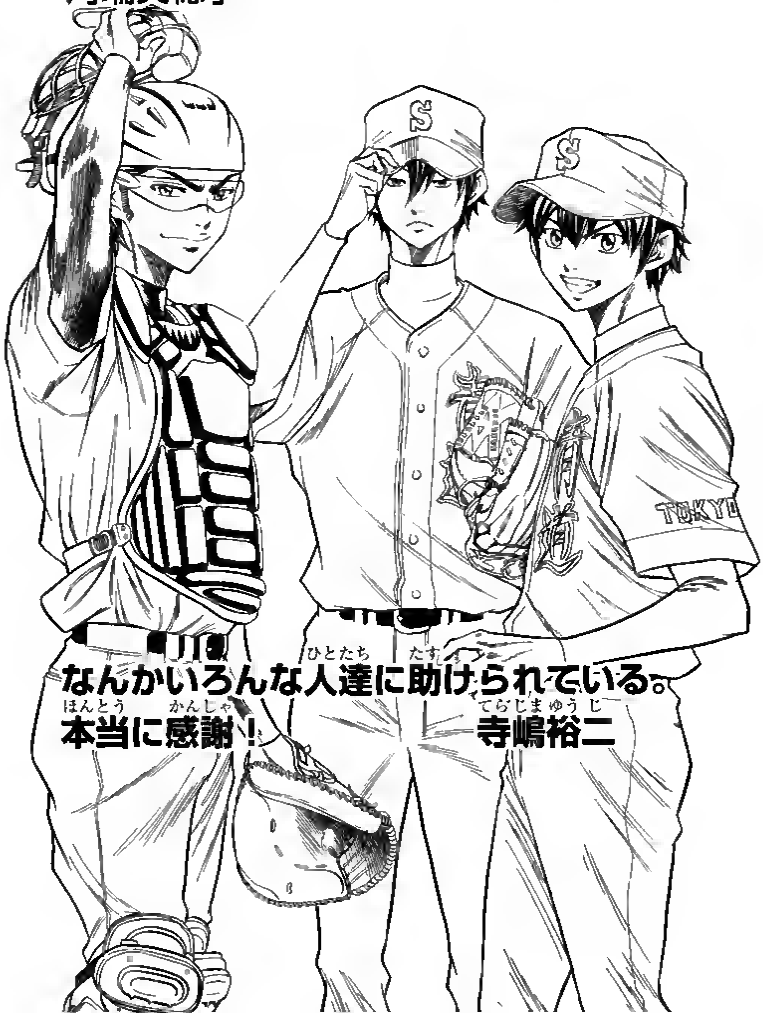
河端美穂子（かわばたみほこ）

—EDITOR—

KIICHIRO SUGAWARA

MASAKATSU MINO

SHUJI SATO



なんかいろんな人達（ひとたち）に助（たす）けられている。
本当（ほんとう）に感謝（かんしゃ）！

寺嶋裕二（てらじまゆうじ）

ダイヤのA
第8巻予告

青道、エース不在の危機――。
それでも夏は待ってくれない!!

丹波――…
今度は俺達が
待っててやるからな…

エースの復帰を――!!

夏までに
間に合わせるぞ

双肩にかかる重圧

チーム一丸
となって
この苦難を
乗り切ることが
できるか!?

数多のチーム
集結!

開いの火蓋が
切られた!

甲子園予選開幕!!